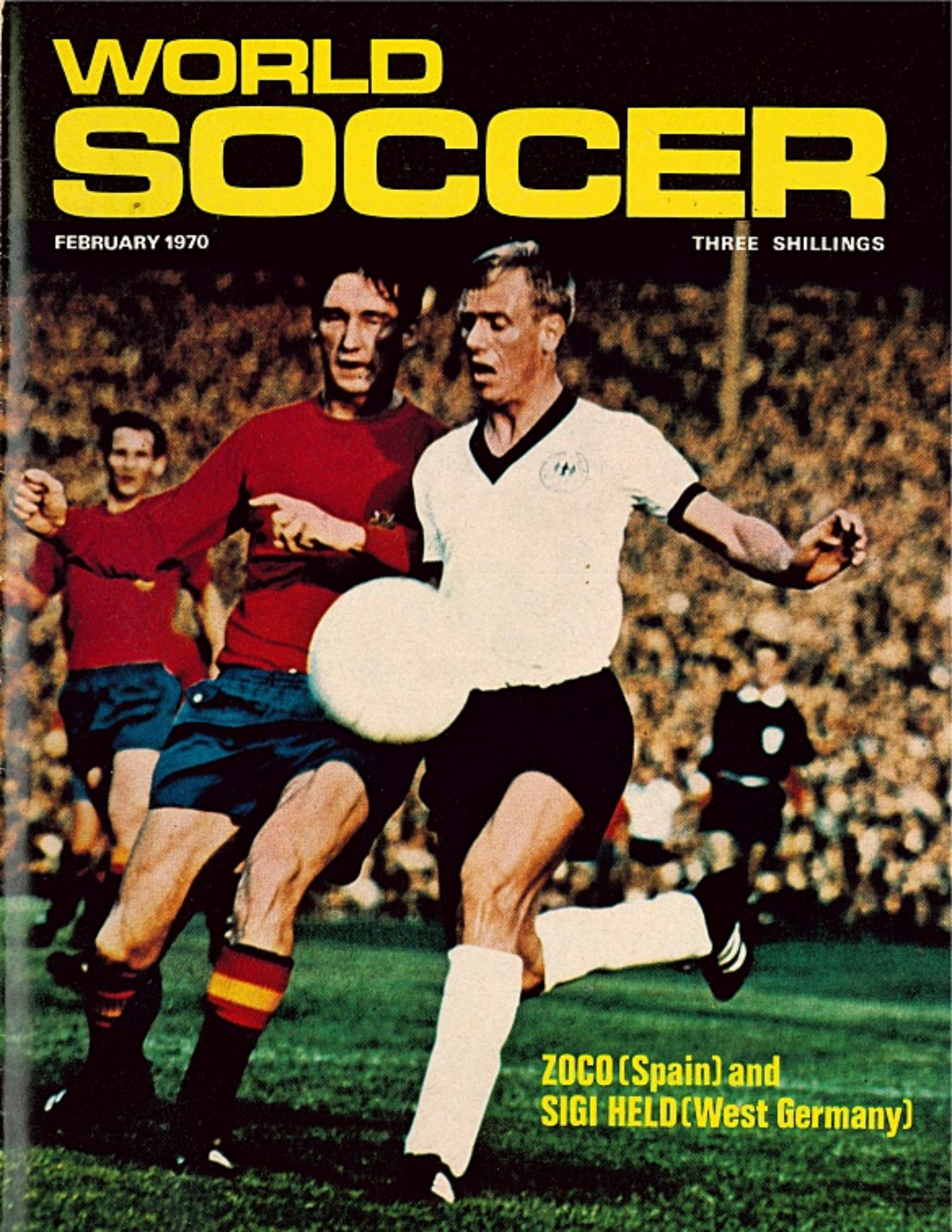
WORLD SOCCER

FEBRUARY 1970

THREE SHILLINGS



ZOCO (Spain) and
SIGI HELD (West Germany)

REAL MADRID: Back row left to right: Junquera, Calpe, Zunzunegui, Benito, Pirri, Zoco. Front row: Perez, Amancio, Grosso, Velazquez, Gento. (NC)

WORLD SOCCER

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WIN A TRIP TO MEXICO

See pages 8/9

DATELINE DIARY

DECEMBER 14

SYDNEY: Israel reached the World Cup finals for the first time by drawing 1-1 against Australia here today to clinch qualifying Group 15 and snatch the last place in the 16-nation finals in Mexico next year. Israel, 1-0 winners of the first leg in Tel Aviv, were assured of a place when captain Mordechai Spiegler shot them into the lead in the 79th minute. John Watkiss equalised for the Australians two minutes from time but it was too late to save his team from elimination.

DECEMBER 16

BUENOS AIRES: The Argentinian FA tonight rejected an appeal against a life suspension imposed on Estudiantes goalkeeper Alberto Poletti following incidents during and after their World Club Championship match against AC Milan. Government-appointed AFA administrator, Juan Martin Oneto Gaona, gave no reason for rejecting the appeal lodged in what was believed to be a conciliatory move before taking the case to court.

Poletti, together with Estudiantes defender Ramon Aguirre Suarez and forward Alberto Manera, were given 30-day jail sentences by Police Chief Mario Ponseca for aggression against AC Milan players.

DIJON: Dijon footballer Marcel Mabrouk died in hospital here today after breaking his neck in a collision with another player.

DECEMBER 17

BRUSSELS: Dunfermline were beaten 1-0 by Anderlecht after adopting a defensive role in their Fairs Cup match here last night. Anderlecht were restricted to a goal in the 44th minute when Devrindt headed in a cross from Puis. Attendance: 14,000.

ROUEN: Arsenal fought out a drab goalless draw with Rouen FC here tonight in a Fairs Cup encounter.

NEWCASTLE: Newcastle and Southampton drew 0-0 in a Fairs Cup match played at St. James's Park tonight.

PARIS: The newly formed Paris Football Club, aimed at bringing top-class soccer back to the French capital after more than two years, today launched an appeal for a British-style Supporters' Club. The soccer club was formed earlier this year with the backing of the French Football Federation after a poll showed popular support here.

BRYAN ROBSON of Fairs Cup holders Newcastle. (U)

A committee has been formed to enter a team in next season's French first division, but as yet no side has been announced. Today's appeal for 7,000 associated members was published in the French daily sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*. Supporters are being asked to pay a membership fee of 25 francs (about £2) which would entitle them to priority for match tickets and reduced prices for season tickets.

Each group of 20 members would have the right to appoint a representative to speak for them at club Executive meetings. Seven thousand paid-up supporters' club members would assure the new team of a 40 per cent gate at the Parc Des Princes stadium, which will be its headquarters. The club's committee is determined the new team should start life at the top . . . in the first division. Experience has shown that Parisians are not interested in anything less than top-class soccer.

The latest case in point is the new Paris-Nuilly team, set up by a group of businessmen just one month before the start of the current season and already suffering crowd problems near the bottom of the second division. Paris has been without a top team of its own since 1967. The once famous Racing Club merged with provincial team Sedan after finishing well down the second division in 1966, while Stade Francais went out of business soon after being relegated to division two in 1967.

DECEMBER 19

NEW YORK: The North American Soccer League has expanded to eight teams for the 1970 season with the granting of franchises to Chicago and Philadelphia. Phil Woosnam, the League's executive director, also announced after a meeting here yesterday that New York will become a member in 1971. The other six teams set for 1970 are Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis, which were members of the five-team circuit in 1969, plus Washington and Rochester, which received franchises last month. The fifth 1969 member, Baltimore, withdrew earlier because of financial problems. Woosnam said the 1970 schedule will begin the third week in April and run through August.

ZURICH: FIFA discussed at a meeting here yesterday proposals to control the use of drugs in the World Cup finals this year. The proposals were submitted by Professor Gottfried Schoenholzer, Swiss chairman of the FIFA Medical Committee, and former chairman Professor Mihailov Andrejevic, of Yugoslavia, who took charge of the 1966 World Cup drugs regulations. The recommendations must be approved by the FIFA Organising Committee in Mexico on January 9 before the 16 finalists are told of the regulations. Professor Schoenholzer and Professor Andrejevic recommended that the list of prohibited drugs be brought up to date. They also proposed that the players be tested for drugs on the same basis as in England in 1966 when two players from each team submitted samples after each match.

CAIRO: East Germany beat the United Arab Republic 3-1 in a friendly international played here today.

CASERTA: Sixty-nine soccer fans were jailed here today for their part in the wild two-day rampage that rocked this central Italian town after the local club was demoted from the second to the third division. A 22-year-old man received the heaviest sentence—three years and four months—while the only woman on trial was imprisoned for four months.

DECEMBER 24

MEXICO CITY: Joao Saldanha, trainer of Brazil, today praised the progress of European football, and the Italian team in particular. Saldanha, here on a World Cup inspection, said: "European football has improved incredibly over the last four years. One of the best examples of how times have changed in Europe is the Italian squad, which is without doubt the best Italy has produced in the last 20 years." He predicted that the next World Cup would be the most closely-contested in the history of the event and named Italy, England, West Germany, the USSR and Brazil as most likely to win.

DECEMBER 26

MURCIA: A footballer who broke a referee's leg was jailed for a year here today. The player, Antonio Diaz Perez, was said to have attacked the referee during a Spanish third division game at nearby Cieza last season.

DECEMBER 30

STOCKHOLM: Stamina tests have shown that the Swedish World Cup team will have no major problems with the thin air in Mexico next June, team manager Orvar Bergmark said today. Last month most of the top players were put through a rigorous work-out in a pressure chamber at the Karolinska Institute here set to give the oxygen-equivalent of the Mexican altitude. "The results have now come in and I am happy to say they show that none of my players are over-sensitive to thin air," Bergmark said. "Furthermore, our key players had very good results, surprisingly good." On January 9 a second group, including some professionals, will be tested in the chamber. Bergmark said he believed that professionals Ove Grahn, of Zurich Grasshoppers, and Roger Magnusson, the Juventus winger on loan to Olympique Marseilles, would be able to travel to Mexico even if their respective clubs were still in the running for league titles at the time.

Earlier this month Glasgow Rangers announced that they would release winger Oerjan Persson for the World Cup finals. Striker Ove Kindvall, a professional with Dutch club Feyenoord, has said he may be prevented from taking part in the early stages of the finals if Holland's league programme stretches into June. Several matches have already been postponed.

NAPLES: Brazilian star Pelé's 1,000 goals have earned him the title of "World Sportsman of the 1960s" in a ballot by 184 Italian sports journalists conducted by the weekly magazine *Sport Sud*. Second in the poll, published here yesterday, was American discus champion, Al Oerter, who won the gold medal at the last three Olympics. Third was Ethiopia's marathon runner Abele Bikila.

DECEMBER 31

BUENOS AIRES: Penarol of Uruguay won the 1969 South American "Super Cup" championship when they beat Estudiantes 2-1 here last night. With this hard-won victory, the Uruguayan club gained a total of nine points from six games. Second in the final standings came Racing of Argentina with eight points. The four clubs in the "Super Cup"—Penarol, Racing, Estudiantes and Santos—are all former World Club champions. Santos were the biggest disappointment of the tournament. Though playing with Pelé they have managed to win only one of the five matches they have played so far.

'STAY AT HOME' YEAR

by ERIC WEIL

WITH all ten member countries of the South American Football Confederation engaged in World Cup preliminary group games during 1968, it was a "stay at home" year for them. Only Chile crossed the ocean to play a couple of full internationals against East Germany, winning one and losing one. The other 45 full internationals played by the ten took place on the South (and Central) American Continent, 24 of them being World Cup games. At the same time only two countries, England and the U.S.S.R. played two and one full internationals here respectively during this period.

Three things stand out:

Brazil's 100 per cent record—Apart from winning their six games in their easy World Cup group, they narrowly beat Peru twice and England once. Statistics can sometimes be misleading, but Brazil do look the best team on the continent.

Peru's good show—Not only were they surprise winners of their World Cup group, but they played most games on this continent during 1969 (13) and their performances really were only a short way behind the Brazilians.

Argentina's poor show—Often the top dogs on the continent, they really disappointed during 1969, not only in their World Cup games, when they finished bottom of their group. Argentine club performances, even forgetting Estudiantes de La Plata, show that the standard of their club soccer hasn't gone down in comparison, but they lack an international policy and repeated chopping and changing of players and coaches has been disastrous and wasted the talent available.

Chile hasn't toughened up its technically good soccer to be successful under today's tactics in spite of the fact that their 1968 champions, Wanderers, had shown the way by winning the title with just such tough tactics. Uruguay are the third South American qualifiers for the World Cup. There's a separate article on them in this issue.

The Super Cup Tournament, actually a competition open to former Inter-Continental Cup winners, has been labelled a tournament for "has-beens", but they have played some good games in it and the crowds are beginning to roll up in the competition's second year.

Participants in the South American section are:

Peñarol (Uruguay), whose ageing stars are past their best, most of whose buys to strengthen the team haven't come off and whose up-and-coming youngsters only show form in flashes.

Racing Club (Argentina), who changed their style to more refined soccer this season with Brazilian forward, Machado da Silva, in their line-up, but lately don't seem to be playing to any style at all in league games.

Estudiantes (Argentina), who are reorganising their team with many youngsters from their reserves and are slowly getting into their stride again with a less aggressive style than the one they are infamous for.

Santos (Brazil), who played their three away games against the above-mentioned during one week, showing especially weak goal-keeping and defensive play and apparent saturation. They lost them all and were trying to sign Cejas (Racing) or some other Argentine goalkeeper.

Nevertheless, there has been less "needle" in these games, less hard tackling and close marking than in South American Cup and league games. Players have been allowed to play more freely and the result has been good to watch. (For results see *Soccer-tistics*.)

A favourite pastime in South America is to build up a star and then knock him down. Pelé's 1,000th goal, scored in November, while causing delirious festivities in Brazil, received a somewhat cooler reception on the rest of the continent.

Without joining this "pastime", I must say however that the 1000 is merely another milestone in the great Pelé's career, but doesn't constitute a record of any sort. The 1,000 includes goals in friendlies, and we all know how many friendly games Santos plays all over the world. In the majority of countries statistics on friendlies are not kept and it is probable that there are players all over the world who have passed the 1000 mark, including goals scored in friendly games, without knowing it.

Among all the carnival atmosphere surrounding Pele's 1000th goal, Brazilians themselves were quick to remember that their own Arthur Friedereich, whose long career stretched from 1910 to 1936 (and who died recently) was credited with 1,329 goals, playing probably fewer games than Pelé.

For Pelé himself the most important goal of the 1000 was the one he scored against Wales in the quarter-finals of the 1958 World Cup which put Brazil through to the semi-finals by 1-0, and on to win the title.

It is unusual for a player to play for the same club for 15 years. That is why Nacional, the Uruguayan league leaders, gave their full-back, Emilio "Cococho" Alvarez, a benefit game last December. Nacional beat a "Rest of America eleven 4-0 and it was Emilio's 441st game for Nacional since his First Division debut in 1959. Alvarez has also been an unusual case for the doctors. In 1960 they said that his deformed left knee would not hold out much longer, yet this season he is one of the best defenders in the country.

The Peruvian FA, who vetoed national team coach, Waldir Pereira's request to go to Europe recently, have had second thoughts and announced his trip, but it may be too late for him to see Peru's possible World Cup rivals in action.

At the same time Peru received a big blow from FIFA which suspended two of their World Cup stars, half Ramón Mifflin and back Nicolas Fuentes, for one year from international games, meaning that they will not be able to take part in the World Cup. Suspension came as a result of being sent off in the World Cup group game versus Bolivia in August.

by PHILIP EVANS

ITALY are through to the World Cup finals in Mexico next June. They have won through decisively, unbeaten in their four qualifying games, and also deservedly, for if there was a considerable amount of dispute about the late goal that gave them a 2-2 draw against the East Germans last March in Berlin, the convincing way in which the Italian team took the East Germans apart in Naples last November with a 3-0 scoreline suggested that they were immeasurably the most talented and imaginative team in their qualifying group. Two weeks earlier, they had trounced a debilitated Welsh team, shorn of many of its stars, with a 4-1 scoreline in Rome, and the Welsh players, like the East Germans after them, were quick to pay tribute to the skills and sheer style of their Italian victors.

Italy will certainly have one of the stronger teams in Mexico, yet only two of their players are completely assured of their places—Riva and Facchetti. For the other nine places there is bound to be intense rivalry and Italian sports writers are having a fine time shuffling through the various permutations.

Rivera? It seems almost incredible that Rivera (newly-elected European Footballer of the Year) undoubtedly one of the finest readers of the game in the world, a man whose talent is amply matched by his insight, should have to fight for a place in the Italian team. But there is a strong possibility that he will be used as an auxiliary in the Italian assault on the World Cup, rather than as its general, the role that would be his almost automatically in any of the other teams that have qualified for Mexico.

DELICATE

Often in the past he has been made the whipping-boy for Italian failure, and in truth has seldom played for the *azzurri* as he has done for AC Milan, where his delicate skills and wonderful intelligence are made the cornerstones for the club's style and serve as the explanation for its success.

What complicates speculation as to Rivera's role in Mexico is the form shown in Italy's last two internationals by Sandro Mazzola, who after two undistinguished seasons has rediscovered the flair that made him such a memorable member of the successful Inter team of the mid-Sixties. Mazzola is on record himself as saying that the Italian team cannot afford to play both Rivera and himself simultaneously, implying almost that the two of them are too similar in style and thought, in their positional play and the eagerness to join the scoring attack.

He may be right, but all the evidence seems to suggest that Rivera is less a *centrocampista* than a general who can play in any corner of the field, a wandering Svengali who can hypnotise his colleagues into action as effectively from his own goal line as from the opposing half.

The issue is further complicated by the fine form shown in the past two years by De Sisti, the Fiorentina captain, and the lack of effective form shown this season by Domenghini whose ubiquity is seldom matched by enough penetration.

At the Fiorentina-Cagliari game of October 12, I was unfortunate enough to be placed in front of a Fiorentina supporter who bellowed "Domenghini, hai finito" each time that player wandered to our side of the pitch. The statement was as ridiculous as it was bigoted; but Domenghini has yet to reproduce the form that proved such an effective contribution to Italy's success in the 1968 European Championship.

INVALUABLE

Watching him play is not dissimilar to watching a man who has lost a lover—you sense too much the obvious unhappiness that accompanied his close-season transfer from Inter, for whom he had at times proved invaluable, both in the home championship and in the hothouse atmosphere of European club competition.

Even in defence, the Italians are far from being sure as to their final alignment. Zoff or Albertosi for goal? Both are almost certain to go to Mexico and the man in form will have the honour of playing. But Superchi of Fiorentina is a young goalkeeper who has more talent than either of them, and Vieri of Inter—transferred from Torino for a large sum during the summer—cannot be far from the selectors' minds.

For years, Burgnich has linked with his Inter partner, Facchetti, at full back; but Burgnich is far from playing well at the moment, and it is by no means inconceivable that he may be a reserve in Mexico.

The fact is that there are several defensive players, of a similar attainment, playing at the moment, all of whom stand a fairly equal chance of selection—men such as Anquilleti, Poletti, Salvadore, Pula, Rosato, Ferrante—and in the long term it may pay the Italians to take with them one or two young defenders, such as the Cagliari pair, Niccolai and Tomasini, who have been instrumental in ensuring the tightness of their team's defence in the first third of the present season.

Italian teams are not in the habit of sporting weak defences, but when all the shouting has died down and all the variations permutated, most of the discussion as to the team's merits and demerits will inevitably revolve around the known form of the strikers, which is a marvellous cue to say something about Luigi Riva.

GIANNI RIVERA. (LPA)

For years the real hero in Italian football terms has been the genuine attacker—the player who could keep alive that small flicker of hope as the phoney war of the midfield was transferred to the vicious *catenaccio* guarding the opposing penalty area. Riva is such a player, and also such a hero. You cannot open a discussion on Italian prospects in the World Cup, with even the most detached and cynical of Italian sports fans, without being told firmly and sincerely that Riva is destined to become the second Pele, the second Eusebio, the one European forward who will cause havoc when the finals of the competition begin.

His record in the qualifying games speaks for itself: he scored seven of Italy's ten goals, and perpetually presented a threat that neither the Welsh nor the East Germans could smother. This is not to argue that Riva is the complete player—he can miss goals on his right foot that men such as Greaves or Müller or Best would tuck away quite effortlessly. But put a pass into his stride and let him get a firm left-footed shot at the ball and the result is spectacular.

FASCINATING TO WATCH

Riva is not a magic player of the ball—none of the close dribbling and intricacy of Best—and often his play suggests that a really tight-marking defence would contain him adequately. But those stolen half-seconds, the explosive shooting from anywhere near goal, make him a most dangerous adversary and a most attractive sight.

Sadly, there are too few forwards who seem genuinely capable of offering Riva the support he needs, who are good enough in their own right to take some of the weight from his shoulders. Anastasi is a fabulous player in the making, strong in every department, wonderfully athletic and versatile, launching himself effortlessly into spectacular bicycle kicks and diving headers.

But in his case it has often been hard to separate cause and effect in Juventus' disastrous start to the season and although instinct suggests that Anastasi will go to Mexico and play well, it may be more valid to see such a success in terms of 1974 and Munich, by which time he may well be unstoppable.

Pierino Prati has yet to reproduce some of the panache that stood him in such good stead in the European Cup Final against Ajax, and although Chiarugi of Fiorentina has a wonderful chance to make his mark in his club's involvement in the European Cup games due to take place in the spring, really his aggression and verve are often marred by a selfishness while on the ball.

CONTEXT

Such problems are bound to find their natural solutions; and speculation at this stage of the World Cup tournament is valid only when seen in the context of wishful thinking. One hopes that the Italian players will find form at the right time, for the national team does seem to have the makings of a strong squad, a squad of players who have become for the most part conscious of the basic point that it is goals that win matches, and that in present-day football it is not enough to play for an unbeaten record, and aim merely for a point away from home to supplement the expected bonus of territorial advantage and the expectancy of home victories.

Large scores in Italian league games are becoming more frequent, and if the success of Cagliari has been the main talking point, the rapid rise to fame of Lanerossi Vicenza and the ebullient way in which that team likes to win with large scorelines has made it one of the larger attractions of the present championship. The world "sophisticated" no longer has a markedly defensive connotation, and the more famous teams are all eager to make their mark as attacking machines. This ideal seems to have found its way into the thinking of the national team, and although teams such as Brazil, England, and West Germany are all likely to provide stern opposition to the Italian assault on the World Cup title, the Italian team seems destined for a fair measure of popularity and a fair chance of ultimate success.

AFFLUENCE

It would however, be tragic were Italian success to ensure that the game remains cast in the present mould. One of the characters in Budd Schulberg's boxing novel, *The Harder They Fall*, remarks: "An athletic sport in an atmosphere of money is like a girl from a good family in a house of ill fame," and although Italian football is far from being unique in a sport that is increasingly attracting affluence, the wealth behind the game in Italy is certainly one prime reason for such evil as there is.

Tickets for even the most moderate of senior games are often grotesquely expensive and the prices paid for even the modest situations at the most important games would turn the average British football follower away in disgust. Charging the prices they do, little wonder that some Italian clubs boast a wealth that can often lead to the most dictatorial of treatment on the part of the directors, eager to recoup and expand their financial stake in the club's fortune.

At no stage is such greed and pride so noticeable as during the close-season. Some teams have managed to keep a hard core of players together through a spell of several seasons; players such as Bedin, Burgnich, Facchetti, Mazzola, Suarez, Corso and Bertini have been the mainstay of Inter-Milan for several years. But the summer transfer-market still resembles a cattle fair, the signal for a game of managerial musical chairs, one where irrationality often acts in ratio to wealth.

It is not such sums as that offered for Riva last summer that seem unnecessary (a reputed £866,000), but rather the enormous sums that go towards the purchase of players of frankly mediocre talents. Against all this, the argument that most transfers take place on an exchange basis seems irrelevant.

The wealth that underlies Italian football makes it a natural target for expansive and extensive coverage in the mass media. There is a lot of bad sports journalism in Italy, as there is a lot of bad sports journalism everywhere.

These are the boys who eulogise a player one week and vilify him the next, who love to play upon the emotional susceptibilities of their readers. In Italy such literary tactics appear more important when seen in the context of a fanaticism that usually expresses itself in ratio to admission prices.

Of course, there are many good Italian sports writers, and the football reporting of the *Corriere della Sera* is a joy to read. But even the most prestigious of Italian daily papers express attitudes and opinions that can too easily transform a reader's enthusiasm into something approaching near-hysteria. All the papers that make any attempt at sports reporting are over-weighty with bizarre facts about each and every game. At the end of each Sunday's play, the leading managers and players are invited to comment on the championship race in the light of the day's results—patently silly, since it takes more than one defeat to ruin a team's chances of taking the title, more than one victory to ensure that a losing team is worth its place in the top division. And many of the comments that are made are done so as to provide a sop to that particular individual's team and its group of followers.

One good example of this sort of emotional reporting occurs at the end of each season when readers are pulverised with stern statistics—tables showing the final placements are supplemented by those showing goalscoring records, players who have made their debuts, players who have the honour of most substitutions, and so on.

IMPLICATIONS

But can it be argued that a table showing which referees awarded the most penalties does the game as a whole any good? The implications underlying such a statistic are far too suggestible, as though figures alone can tell you anything about a referee's ability to control a match, when in fact the answer to such a question lies rather in the realms of technical competence and psychological sensitivity.

Inevitably, perhaps, the Italian football follower is one who is extremely knowledgeable about the game both in Italy and throughout the world. Go into any bar and start a discussion on the subject, and it is impossible not to be impressed by the sheer knowledge and information that is thrown at you. And it is hard to escape the conclusion that this is an awareness that mirrors that which is so sane about the Italian game.

Italian players suffering under suspension do so for a number of matches, rather than for a period of time—an eminently more just way of things. Clubs whose fans get out of hand suffer similarly—Fiorentina, for example, were made to play their next two "home" games on neutral grounds as a result of the near-riots that acted as the backcloth to their game with Cagliari.

● *Continued on page 40*

PICK YOUR TEAM FOR MEXICO

WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO TO THE WORLD CUP FINALS

How to enter:

Imagine that you are responsible for the selection of the England team to play in the Mexico World Cup football match. Study the 22 pictures of England football players on this page, and on the assumption that they would be available, select your team to represent England in a World Cup competition.

The players are listed in four groups, Group 1—Goalkeepers; Group 2—Defenders; Group 3—Midfield or (link players); Group 4—Forwards or (strikers).

The team should be based on a (flexible) 4–3–3 formation, therefore your selection should comprise: 1 goalkeeper from group 1, 4 defenders from group 2, 3 midfield or link players from group 3, 3 forwards or strikers from group 4.

Print the players' names in the columns provided from top to bottom, making sure no two lines are identical. Then in the space provided on the coupon, write in no more than 15 words why you would like to go to Mexico. Entries are free and you may send in more than one coupon. Family or individual coupons may be sent in one envelope. Closing date for this competition is **March 12, 1970.**

GOALKEEPERS

DEFENDERS

MIDFIELD OR LINK MEN

FORWARDS OR STRIKERS

RULES: (World Cup Competition)

1. This competition, organised by WORLD SOCCER magazine, is open to all our readers over the age of 16. Entries will not be accepted from any members of the staff at Websters Publications, Shaw International Travel Ltd., or Lockhurst General Ltd.

2. An entrant may make five free entries for each issue of WORLD SOCCER magazine, although each coupon must be from WORLD SOCCER magazine. Plain paper entries will not be accepted.

3. Entries must be received by us not later than March 12, 1970. Entries received after this date will be ignored.

4. No responsibility is accepted for entries lost or delayed in transit. Illegible or ambiguous entries will be declared void. Mark your entry carefully and clearly.

5. The prize of a trip for two people to Mexico City for the 1970 World Cup competition includes hotel accommodation, match tickets. They will be awarded to the competitor whose entry is adjudged to be the most meritorious.

6. In the interpretation of these rules and in dealing with any unforeseen eventuality, the decision of the Editor is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. Acceptance of all rules is a condition of entry.

All tickets and travel arrangements offered as prizes in this competition have been arranged through Shaw International Travel Ltd., specialists in tours of this nature.

PICTURED LEFT:

Goalkeepers: Gordon Banks, Peter Bonetti.

Defenders: Keith Newton, Brian Labone, Jackie Charlton, Emlyn Hughes, Tommy Wright, Terry Cooper, Norman Hunter, Bobby Moore.

MIDFIELD: Colin Harvey, Colin Bell, Bobby Charlton, Tommy Smith, Alan Mullery, Martin Peters.

Forwards: Francis Lee, Joe Royle, Allan Clarke, Geoff Hurst, Jeff Astle, Alan Ball.

I agree to abide by the full rules, and submit ..... entries

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Mr. Mrs. or Miss, Block letters

ADDRESS: .....

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11 Selections in downward lines

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HUNGARY

Post-mortem begins after Marseille

by LESLIE VERNON

FOLLOWING the tragedy of Marseille, the biggest ever post-mortem started in Hungary. After all, this is the first time in history that the national 11 failed to qualify for the World Cup Finals, and a wide scale investigation of the reasons behind this shameful defeat had to be held.

First there was a general rush of resignations, everybody even remotely connected with the national team felt that he ought to make a personal sacrifice. These "noble" gestures were appreciated, but refused, with the exception of team manager Soos, whose contract will not be renewed, but he had had enough in any case.

At the moment there is no one in sight capable or willing to take on this thankless and arduous job. The alarmist section of the Press and public thought that it would be a good idea to engage an English coach, who "could teach us how to win".

They remember the excellent work Jimmy Hogan did in Hungary before the First World War, and Arthur Rowe before the second. This is of course not a very practical proposition because of the language and financial (hard currency!) difficulties, and anyway, who wants a Third World War?

Out of the welter of various accusations, ideas, proposals and opinions, it is not too difficult for one to select a few which are right on target. To me, a comparative outsider, it has been clear for years that there are many aspects of Hungarian football that need revision.

Up to now, the semi-successes in the World Cup, European Championship and the Fairs' Cup obscured the obvious faults, and curiously, this latest and most painful fiasco might be a blessing in disguise. My diagnosis and possible cures for the ills:

Current confusion

1. The question of "shamateurism" should be settled immediately. It has always been an open secret that the players are getting paid (and handsomely!) for their efforts. A system must be found (call it "professionalism" or "bonus and incentive ratio") which is acceptable to the ideological principles of Communism, whereby written contracts are in existence between the players and the clubs. This would eliminate the current confusion, and greatly limit the players' blackmailing powers.

2. A coach must not be allowed to sign for a club for less than two years. At present they are working on a season-to-season basis, which naturally forces them to seek quick results. It takes time to develop a football team, and the coach (or manager) must have at least as much security as the players.

3. The coaches should be not only allowed but encouraged to run the clubs and discipline their players the way they think it should be done, in the best interests of the game. Up to now the lazy stars have refused to work hard in training, and have always found a sympathetic director who agreed with them—in other words, the authority of the coach has been greatly undermined by people who know nothing about football.

4. The number of overseas tours should be cut.

5. The referees should be told to officiate the "FIFA-way" and not whistle every time a player falls on the ground.

6. The development and training of coaches should be modernised. A training-camp should be set up, as in West Germany, where an up-to-date "football university" could be put into operation.

7. More attention should be paid to young players; youth schemes should be financed by the FA.

8. The transfer system should be revised. If a player is good enough to join a club in a higher division, he should be allowed to do so, even if his original club objects. A fee should be paid to his old club according to his age, the number of years he has played for them, etc. This would ensure the flow of talent into the First Division.

Obviously, all these reforms would be beneficial, but tradition dies slowly, and I wonder how many of them will be implemented. Up to now, the FA has made only two decisions worth recording. There will be a return to the autumn-spring campaign system as from 1970/71. This coming spring, the teams will play only a "one-round" championship in every Division, with no relegations, and as from next August, the new order will operate.

This change should provide more time for rest and pre-season training during summer, and the "team in form" will enter for the European Champions' Cup.

The other ruling stated that the period between December 7 and January 24 is "close season," and teams are not allowed to go on tours until after the final date.

Ferencvaros were the only outfit really hit by the ban. They had to cancel their Australian and Far Eastern tour, and now will go to South America instead. Ujpesti Dozsa are also about to make a tour of the "New World" and so are Vasas and Honved. Csepel will go to India, Indonesia and Burma, Tatabanya, Komlo and Dunaujvaros will tour East Germany, MTK—Yugoslavia, and newly promoted Szeol—Rumania.

Several of these teams will travel under new management, in fact there have been so many changes that it is easier to list all the clubs with their coaches: Ujpesti Dozsa, Baroti. Honved, Preiner. Ferencvaros, Dr. Kalocsai (new). Vasas, Jozsef Albert (new). Raba, Meszaros. Pecs, Kapocsi (new). Csepel, Keszthelyi. Tatabanya, Dr. Lakat (new). Salgotarjan, Marosvari. MTK, Palicsko (new). Dunaujvaros, Szucs (new). Videoton, Kovacs (new).

Rudolf Illovszki is not on the list, he is going to Kuwait to take over the national team there. Amongst the new appointments, the most interesting is naturally the return of Geza Kalocsai, who could revitalise "Fradi," and Dr. Lakat's departure to the provincial club, Tatabanya. Kalocsai's first signing was Ku, an under-23 international forward from Bocskai S.E. Tentative plans have been published concerning the fixtures of the national team. They are:

April 12	v.	Yugoslavia	(a)
May 2	v.	Poland	(h)
May 16	v.	Sweden	(h)
Sept. 9	v.	W. Germany	(a)
Sept. 27	v.	Austria	(h)
Oct. 11	v.	?	(h) in the European Championship!

The dismal 1969 season finished on December 7, when only 12,400 people went to see the eight matches, which included the Honved v. Ferencvaros derby (5-2), 1,000 spectators!). My sincere congratulations to Lajos Baroti for winning the championship so convincingly with Ujpesti Dozsa. After ten years in the wilderness, this was the tenth championship win for the lilac and whites, who also triumphed in 1930, '31, '33, '35, '39, '45, '46, '47 and '60!

The usual team, with dates of birth, number of appearances in League football and number of caps: Antal Szentmihalyi (1939, 270, 31); Beno Kaposzta ('42, 205, 19); Erno Solymosi ('40, 271, 38); Erno Nosko ('45, 136, 2); Istvan Bankuti ('46, 78, 1); Ede Dunai ('49, 62, 1); Janos Gorocs ('39, 314, 61); Laszlo Fazekas ('47, 97, 7); Ferenc Bene ('44, 223, 39); Antal Dunai ('43, 190, 6); Sandor Zambo ('44, 154, 8). Goalscorers: Bene 27, A. Dunai 16, Fazekas 10, L. Nagy (reserve) 9, Solymosi 8, Gorocs 7, E. Dunai 1, Juhasz 1, Zambo 1, O.G. 3.

It is interesting that both in the 15 "rounds" of the spring season and in the 15 rounds of the autumn half, exactly 335 goals were scored, altogether 670 in 240 matches for the reasonable average of 2.79 goals per match.

Top scorers: Bene (Ujpesti Dozsa) 27 goals; Puskas (Vasas) 25; Farkas (Vasas) 21; Kozma (Honved) 21.

WORLD CUP DRAW

Comment by ROGER MACDONALD

TO those FIFA officials I accused of fiddling the draw, my apologies; for I overestimated their ability to do so. Any system devised by the Organising Committee that permits England, the World Cup holders, to be grouped with Brazil, the leading South American challenger, and with Czechoslovakia, a team that knocked out Hungary to the tune of 4-1, is unbelievable in its incompetence.

The cynics will see the draw as one which reflects the total antagonism which England's home win generated, however unconsciously, in 1966. Namely, that given the same opportunities, the host nation have achieved for themselves the easiest of the four groups; and have arranged for the holders, the most difficult, almost the most difficult imaginable.

It's a sobering thought that England has a worse record against Brazil than any of the other finalists, winning only once in six matches—as far back as 1956, at Wembley (4-2). For all the talk of an unlucky defeat in Rio last June, 2-1 after leading 1-0, one must also remember that Brazil made several experiments and took several chances—bringing back the Santos *reserve* goalkeeper, Gylmar, for example, so he could achieve his 100th cap.

Even Czechoslovakia and Rumania have both held England to a draw at Wembley, so there is no consolation in their addition to the holder's group. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that any one of these four teams could qualify from any of the remaining groups and that therefore one or more of the really fancied sides must go out in the opening skirmish.

SENSES

So the draw is, for certain notable sides, manifestly unfair: it has, however, thrown up a series of striking original matches, even if few of them stir the senses. Who, indeed, would have contemplated Belgium v. El Salvador; Uruguay v. Israel; and Peru v. Morocco meeting in the finals when the qualifying rounds began a couple of years ago?

Even looking back over the last 20 or 30 years, few of the last 16 have ever met before in the final stages of the competition—emphasising, again, how unexpected are some of the qualifiers. One has to go back to 1950, for example, to find Sweden meeting Italy ... and beating Italy, against all the forecasts, by three goals to two.

And one must go back even further to find a World Cup-tie between Czechoslovakia and Rumania, to the finals of 1934. On that occasion Czechoslovakia won 2-0, but it took two fabulous saves by their legendary goalkeeper, Planicka, to save the match in the second half.

Which brings us back to that group of the giants, many memories, some good, some bad. In 1958 England were the only team to hold Brazil on their way to a victory in the Stockholm final; but in the last eight in Chile, two goals by the fabulous Garrincha put paid to England without too much difficulty.

For Czechoslovakia and Brazil, four meetings, all astonishingly different. When they first met, at Bordeaux in 1938, it was in a game of such incredible violence that it made the front pages of almost every newspaper in Europe—at a time when football rarely made big news at all. Three players—two Brazilians, one Czech—were sent off, two more were carried off, and the game ended in a draw. Indeed, so serious were the casualties that in the replay Brazil fielded nine new players and Czechoslovakia six.

A happier and more recent meeting came in 1962, when Brazil played Czechoslovakia in the opening rounds and again in the final. The first game, at group level, ended in an uninspiring draw, but the final was excellent—Czechoslovakia equalising an early Brazilian goal and coming close to another before Brazil finally won 3-1.

FINALISTS

Could 1970 produce another meeting at group level between the ultimate finalists, even through the long arm of coincidence, of the same 1962 teams, Brazil and Czechoslovakia? That, I doubt, but if England and Brazil played to their full potential, they could achieve it.

Looking closely at the draw, I would expect Russia and Belgium to qualify from Group One (short of some national fervour affecting the indolent Mexican side); Italy and Sweden from Group Two (internal dissention has weakened Uruguay's preparations); Brazil and, just about, England from Group Three; West Germany and Peru (beating the Bulgars at high altitude, perhaps, from Group Four.

As the sequence of fixtures is then pre-determined, the winners of Group One playing the runners-up in Group Two, and so on, the quarter-finals could be: Russia v. Sweden, Belgium v. Italy, Brazil v. Peru, and a repeat of the 1966 final, England v. West Germany.

At this stage, the outcome is a lottery, but Russia might come through to meet Brazil, and Italy to meet the winners of the England-West Germany clash. In view of England's remarkable record against these two sides, they could well come through to meet Brazil in the final on June 21.

OPPONENTS

But for England to manage it, and, incidentally, to meet a string of European opponents presents no problem in style, they would have to finish second, not first, in Group Three. The obvious answer, of course, is to lose to Brazil, thereby providing a splendid alibi in advance and lulling their final opponents into a false sense of security. I only hope, to save FIFA acute embarrassment, they don't take this marvellous scheme to the extent that West Germany (beaten 8-3 by Hungary) did in 1954. They beat Hungary 3-2 in the final.

GROUP 1

In Mexico City

Russia
Mexico
Belgium
El Salvador

May 31: Mexico v. Russia. June 3: Belgium v. El Salvador. June 6: Russia v. Belgium. June 7: Mexico v. El Salvador. June 10: Russia v. El Salvador. June 11: Mexico v. Belgium.

GROUP 2

At Puebla or Toluca

Uruguay
Italy
Sweden
Israel

June 2: Uruguay v. Israel. June 3: Sweden v. Italy. June 6: Uruguay v. Italy. June 7: Israel v. Sweden. June 10: Uruguay v. Sweden. June 11: Italy v. Israel.

GROUP 3

At Guadalajara

Rumania
England
Czechoslovakia
Brazil

June 2: England v. Rumania. June 3: Czechoslovakia v. Brazil. June 6: Rumania v. Czechoslovakia. June 7: England v. Brazil. June 10: Brazil v. Rumania. June 11: England v. Czechoslovakia.

GROUP 4

At Leon

Peru
West Germany
Bulgaria
Morocco

June 2: Peru v. Bulgaria. June 3: West Germany v. Morocco. June 6: Peru v. Morocco. June 7: Bulgaria v. West Germany. June 10: Peru v. West Germany. June 11: Morocco v. Bulgaria.

Quarter-finals

June 14.—Match 1: Group 1 runners-up v. Group 2 winners (Mexico City). Match 2: Group 1 winners v. Group 2 runners-up (Guadalajara). Match 3: Group 3 winners v. Group 4 runners-up (Leon). Match 4: Group 3 runners-up v. Group 4 winners (Puebla or Toluca).

Semi-finals

June 16: Match 1 winners v. Match 3 winners (Guadalajara). June 18: Match 2 winners v. Match 4 winners (Mexico City).

Final

June 21: Mexico City. Play-off for third and fourth places in Mexico City, June 20.

AND at last there were 16: England, Mexico, Belgium, Sweden, West Germany, Italy, Russia, Rumania, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, El Salvador, Morocco . . . and, filling the last three places, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Israel.

For Hungary, eliminated by Czechoslovakia, it has been a sad and almost unnecessary defeat. They arrived at a play-off with the Czechs in spite of beating them in Budapest and drawing 3-3 in Prague—after leading at one stage by two clear goals. But the two-point advantage was squandered in Copenhagen against the Danish amateurs, in a disastrous 3-2 defeat that also put the great Florian Albert out of international reckoning with a serious leg injury.

Albert was one of the scorers when Hungary beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 in Budapest. The other scorer, Antal Dunai, hurt his ankle in a league match and failed a fitness test on arrival in France for the play-off. And as Hungary were already forced to turn out without Lajos Szucs, stupidly sent off in their previous World Cup-tie against Eire, their forward line was seriously depleted.

Ivan Davidov of Bulgaria.

International Post-Mortem by ROGER MACDONALD

AND THEN THERE WERE SIXTEEN

With the temperature near zero at Marseilles, only 7,000 came to see one of the most dramatic matches of the whole qualifying series. Czechoslovakia looked in good form when they ran up five goals against a French provincial side the previous weekend, but it was Hungary who made all the early running. They had a chance to take the lead after only five minutes, when Horvath brought down Fazekas in the penalty area. But Viktor, whose fitness had earlier been in doubt, brought a roar from the crowd by saving the penalty at the second attempt. Ten minutes later he made another superb save, jumping like a cat to turn away Bene's 30-yard shot for a corner.

Czechoslovakia, however, were pacing themselves better and beginning to get the feel of the greasy pitch. Their passing was more accurate and more positive, leaving the Hungarian defence in the no-man's land of uncertainty. Gaps began to appear, and in the 31st minute Vesely beat Szentmihalyi all ends up with a ferocious drive that left the crossbar twanging like a broken violin string. Hardly had the woodwork stopped quivering when Vesely broke through again for a long, low shot that Szentmihalyi stopped at full stretch. Seven minutes from half-time Vesely dribbled round two defenders on the edge of the penalty area, and Kelemen stuck a leg out in sheer desperation. Down went Vesely, up ran the referee, and in went the penalty—the scorer, Kvasnak, prodding the ball home with his gangling legs.

There was still no indication at this stage that Czechoslovakia would run away with the match. While they had the better co-ordinated forward line, Hungary had enough individual brilliance on show to produce a goal out of nothing. But too much, it seemed, was left to Bene up front and Halmosi in the middle—both outnumbered and overwhelmed.

Czechoslovakia, needing to win the game to go to Mexico (Hungary, with their superior group goal average, needed only a draw after extra time), pressed home their advantage. Adamec and Pollak, coming on for Kuna, kept giving Vesely the ball, on the basis that since he could beat any Hungarian man for man no more sophisticated tactic was necessary. Nor was it. In the 53rd minute, Vesely eluded three players and scraped the crossbar with a shot that dipped wickedly in flight; Adamec left a muddy mark on the post; then Vesely scored Czechoslovakia's second goal with an unstoppable shot from 15 yards.

On the hour Hungary brought on Puskas and Kocsis for Goroes and Farkas, but Czechoslovakia now seemed to be gathering strength and numbers minute by minute, Kvasnak slid a free-kick through an invisible gap for Adamec to get the third goal, and the Hungarians were all but overwhelmed as the Czechs raged around their penalty area. But in the event the fourth goal came right from the touchline, a speculative effort by Jokl—underlining Hungary's nagging problem of a string of suspect goalkeepers.

TEMPER

In the closing minutes tension gave way to temper with Hungarian cunning leading to Czech brutality. The French referee, René Machin, sent off Petras for blatantly kicking Bene, and in the last minute awarded Hungary a penalty after three Czech defenders had sandwiched Zambo disgracefully. Kvasnak scored from the spot to give his team what in no fashion could be described as a consolation goal.

So we shall see the Czechs in Mexico, a team of no little talent, but of suspect temperament and lacking that polished edge that distinguishes a great team from a good one. No doubt in these days of method football they will do well, if not always winning, then usually avoiding a heavy defeat. But one mourns the sophisticated talent of the Hungarians, their exquisite ball play, their sense of the occasion that can produce a match to stir the senses.

Their failure at Marseilles was, alas, a failure of morale, of fitness, and of preparation. A player with breath to spare has time to spare, and the Hungarians were always stretched on the rack by Czechoslovakia's apparently inexhaustible energy.

It seems that Hungary could never shake off the end-of-season complex and lift their mental fatigue. Their preparations were indifferent, and indifference, indeed, marks their football. There is a crisis of management in Hungary, a fundamental doubt about tactics, that has brought complete disillusionment between coaches and players. One of Hungary's greatest clubs, Ferencvaros, all but collapsed after their humiliating defeat in

the European Cup by Leeds United. Seven of their top players—Albert, Panesics, Szucs, Juhasz, Branikovics, Rakosi and Novak—have asked for a transfer. In such unhappy circumstances Hungary were beaten before they had touched the ball.

Completing the Eastern European quartet in Mexico will be Bulgaria, who came through an anxious period to get the two points they needed against Luxembourg. There was no risk that they would take the match lightly, after winning the home leg 2-1 only with a disputed penalty, but the strength of Luxembourg's resistance on a snow-bound pitch must have come as a surprise. Especially as Bulgaria got two goals in a four-minute period during the first half, both coming largely with the run of the ball.

FIERCE

The first came in the 35th minute, when right-winger Dermedchiev took a neat pass from Penev and scored with a shot that was sharply deflected by a defender. Then Jekov produced a fierce shot which Hoffman stopped but could not hold, and Jakimov, following up, got the second.

However, Luxembourg shook off this sudden reverse and came more and more into the match. Early in the second half Gaganelov blatantly tripped Schmit, and Philipp scored from the penalty spot. Thereafter Bulgaria had to withstand heavy pressure, and for some time the odds were on a draw and Bulgaria having to play off with Poland. But seven minutes from time, with Luxembourg committed upfield, Asparoukhov beat two defenders in a breakaway and Bonev, timing his advance to the second, got the third goal with a shot that hit the far post and rolled into the net.

Australia had only 48 hours to acclimatise in Tel Aviv on the last part of their World Cup odyssey. Israel cancelled league matches at the weekend to help their preparations and as a precaution against possible injuries, but their best player, centre-half David Primo (recently back from the US Soccer league) was still injured in a practice match. Israel's coach Emanuel Schaefer took his squad to Kibbutz Shfayim, away from the bright lights of Tel Aviv, until the morning of the match. After watching Australia in action against Japan, he said: "We shall have to play at our very best to have a chance of beating this team."

Israel's World Cup record did little to enhance their chances—just three wins (twice against Ethiopia and once against Cyprus) in 22 World Cup-ties played since 1934, and regular elimination. But on the other hand Australia's dismal showing against North Korea in 1966 redressed the balance.

Australia played unashamedly for a draw in front of 50,000 at Tel Aviv, but conceded a goal in the 19th minute by Giora Spiegel. The Australians began to tire badly in the closing stages, and Spiegel, having covered himself in glory, committed two blunders that turned him from hero to villain. In the 75th minute Israel were awarded a penalty which Spiegel shot straight at Australia's goalkeeper, Ron Corry. Then, just before the end, he had an open goal with not a defender in sight and blazed the ball wide.

Yet in a sense all these blunders did not matter, with points—at least in the first place—rather than goals deciding the winners. So Israel travelled to Sydney with two points in the bag, aiming at the draw they needed to qualify. With centre-half Primo still nursing an injured ankle, they kept the same team, while Australia were strengthened by the return of Marnoch, Walsh and Ray Baartz.

In a temperature of 70 degrees coiled by a strong breeze—there's a thought for anyone reading this in freezing Europe—Israel predictably adopted a defensive strategy. Sometimes they had as many as ten men in defence, relying on breakaways when Australia's attack became too ambitious in terms of numbers.

Australia had a good chance to score after eight minutes, when Baartz hooked in a shot which Vissoker did well to stop. But otherwise the Israeli defence allowed the Australian forwards little room, and their shooting was not accurate or powerful enough under pressure. The match seemed likely to peter out into a goalless draw until Israel, against the run of play, scored a 79th-minute goal. A long clearance upfield bounced badly for the Australian defenders and Mordechi Spiegler, Israeli's captain, unexpectedly won possession. Without checking his stride he hit a left-foot shot towards the corner of the net which Corry got his fingers to but could not stop.

Australia now attacked desperately, roared on by the 30,000 crowd, but Israel held out until three minutes from time. Then a movement down the left wing left Ray Baartz clear, and from his neat pass John Watkiss got the equaliser. But there was to be no dramatic salvation for Australia, as Israel kept their heads and kept them out.

After struggling to find a play-off venue in first Hong Kong, then Cambodia and ultimately New Zealand, FIFA must have breathed a sigh of relief: the most protracted of all World Cup qualifying groups was completed at last.

Also in Asia, the South-Eastern Asian Peninsula Games soccer championship has been in full swing, with Malaysia doing unexpectedly well in beating Laos and South Vietnam. In Rangoon they defeated the South Vietnamese 2-1 after a hard struggle and several narrow escapes. Hardly had Harun Yusof come on as a substitute when he scored Malaysia's first goal in the 40th minute, following a defensive blunder. Yusof came on for Zulfikli Norbit, who was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg.

Malaysia continued to incur numerous free-kicks, which Vietnam took advantage of by frequently feigning injury. In the 57th minute their outside-right Hungo Vo Ba was tripped by left-back Foo Fook Chuan, and stayed writhing in the penalty area until the referee awarded a penalty . . . making an instant recovery, Ngon Nguyen Van scored from the spot, and it took an opportunist goal by centre-forward Shaharaddin Abdullah ten minutes from time to give Malaysia victory. Even then Vietnam hit the crossbar just before the end and their Army Sergeant captain, Vinh Do Thoi, kept them fighting right to the finish.

Burma, though, kept their title with a 3-0 win over Thailand in a dull and uninspiring match.

● *Continued on page 47*

Francis Lee appeals for a goal by Ian Moore but the referee disallowed this effort by one of England's new caps for offside. England drew 0-0 against Holland. (UPI)

BRIAN GLANVILLE

WINGERS' PROVING GROUND?

LOOKING AT SOCCER

I WONDER whether 1970 may not be the year of the winger; whether we shan't see a marked recrudescence of that supposedly obsolete figure. Despite England's dogged refusal to acknowledge his validity, it's surprising just how many countries have turned back to 4-2-4; and how many of those have won their way into the finals of the World Cup. The most notable of these are certainly Peru, the conquerors of Argentina. In a recent interview, Didi, the Brazilian star who is now their team manager, said that he decided to gamble with a 4-2-4 formation in the decisive match at Buenos Aires because he had such faith in his wingers, Ramirez and the coloured Baylon.

The Czechs used a 4-2-4 to thrash the Hungarians in their play-off in Marseilles. West Germany have recalled a classical right winger in Libuda, who responded by scoring a classical right winger's goal, to beat the Scots, while the Bulgarians, too, have been using a 4-2-4. The effectiveness of such other wingers as Jimmy Johnstone of Celtic, the potential of the classic Roger Magnusson, of Sweden, suggest that Mexico could well be a wingers' proving ground; if scarcely a paradise. One hopes that the arts of that fascinating role haven't been lost beyond recovery in an England which has spurned them, ever since the 1966 World Cup. I'm reminded of the brilliant Parthian shot of Hans Keller, the music critic, writing in the *New Statesman* just before the 1966 Final: "Next week I shall describe how England won the World Cup and what we can do about it."

In Rome, not long ago, the *Corriere Della Sera* newspaper united the improbable couple of Helenio Herrera, now manager of Roma, and the novelist, Alberto Moravia, to discuss professional football and its implications. A number of students sat around the table with them; some of the views which emerged are worth repeating.

Moravia began by insisting that a distinction must be made between sport and conflict (*agonismo*). Individual sport he found very fine, a development of the body, a game—and games were a fundamental activity of man. *Agonismo* by contrast was a kind of disease, to be found in certain epochs. Fans by and large didn't play any sport, they merely went to watch, dividing against one another like the factions in Byzantium, who supported the different charioteers.

Herrera replied, defensively, that this was the way things were, and there could be no changing them. Fans weren't athletes in the way that spectators at the theatre were not actors. Moravia quickly and easily demolished this by pointing out that theatre was an art. Audiences went to watch it and to benefit from it, where fans took sides and became partisans. He couldn't but oppose professional sport.

SAFETY VALUE

Herrera rejoined that youth must be encouraged to practise sport, and professional football was one way of accomplishing this. It was better that they should practise sport than take drugs. Without this safety valve, they might even whip up a revolution.

Moravia dryly replied that he himself lived near to the Olympic Stadium—where Roma and Lazio play most of their home games—and the fans he saw making their way there were largely bald, with big paunches. These certainly practised no sport. There was a great disproportion between football and the passions that it roused. If only they could be roused by the arts, religion, politics.

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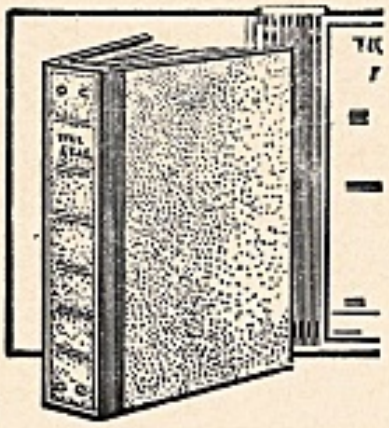

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Obviously there was something wrong. *Tifo*, the fan-disease, was the product of alienation, a surrogate. The biggest crowds he had ever seen in his life were in sports stadiums and in the Piazza Venezia—where Mussolini used to speak from that notorious balcony. To a student, he explained that energies which might be devoted to other, social purposes were instead expended in the stadiums.

Questioned by another student, Herrera observed that two points needed to be clarified. Moravia was lamenting the fact that people devoted themselves to football rather than literature; understandable, since he himself wrote novels. Moravia brusquely reminded him, "I haven't spoken about literature." Herrera went on, "You'd like everybody to go to the theatre. But they don't go, and there's nothing I can do about it." But thanks to football, funds were raised for the development of sport, through the pools—Totocalcio—and CONI, the the Italian Olympic Committee, which benefited people throughout the country

WORKED WELL

Moravia answered that this was social politics, and he agreed. But there was a more important point on which they disagreed; that of *spettacolo:* show, or spectacle. Herrera kept saying that football was a spectacle. But people went to see a spectacle and decided whether or not it had worked well. A football match gave rise to conflict and was much more dramatic. A fan took an active part, even to the point of violence. Football was more like a bullfight than a theatrical show.

Herrera, rather incautiously, fell into Moravia's snare by blandly admitting that in Spain, the bull fight was a safety valve, which could be seen as the function of sport.

Just so, said Moravia; it was a surrogate for other activities which were thus not thought of, and from which the attention of the masses was distracted.

Just as well, said the conservative Herrera; if people didn't go and take sides at football matches they might instead make a revolution.

Moravia let that one lie, and said that what he found mysterious was the way a fan chose one team rather than another. A student told him he supported Roma because his family did, and besides, he didn't think fans were violent. Moravia said what about Caserta, and for once was neatly put down by Herrera: "Caserta (where rioting took place early this season) is to football like one fly to the whole of Africa."

"Very well," Moravia agreed, "Caserta is a special case, but the papers are full of violent incidents in football. I insist on the distinction between sport and fan-fever (*tifo*). He liked one, rejected the other. It was splendid to watch boys playing football on a field on the outskirts of the city, without spectators.

LAST WORD

A student raised the question of "the grave faults in the structure of football," the huge sums involved. Herrera objected that the same considerations went for the world of pop or cinema; why pick on football? Moravia, rather skittishly, said that there was only one Sophia Loren; how many footballers earned vast salaries? Perhaps, said Herrera, solemnly, it was best to accept things as they were. Moravia wouldn't have that at all: one must always fight, he said, to change things whenever it seemed necessary

"We must," said Herrera, ironic in his turn, "change everything, but since we aren't strong enough to do it, I'll go on being a manager and Moravia will go on writing novels."

Moravia had the last word. If he had to draw any conclusion, he said, it was to say that he preferred amateur sport because he was for activity which was and end in itself, and disinterested. He admitted that Herrera and those who thought like him might find valid justification in their society; but he still felt that sport should be practised by amateurs, without the stimulus of money.

Ideally, one would agree with Moravia. In a more immediate sense, he is avoiding the problem, not of accepting things as they are, but in realising what they are, and proceeding on that rather than a hopelessly theoretical basis.

HELENIO HERRERA.

FIRED!

THE West German season is only at the half-way stage yet already four managers have parted company from their respected clubs. When Georg Stollenwerk was sacked from his post with Alemannia Aachen he became the 36th manager to bite the dust since the inauguration of the Bundesliga on August 24, 1963.

In fact, only two clubs can boast of having the same manager during their entire Bundesliga life. Helmut Johannsen has held firm with founder members Eintracht Brunswick, guiding them to one Bundesliga title and a crack at the European Cup in the process, while Borussia Monchengladbach have been very grateful to Hennes Weisweiler since he brought them out of a regional league in 1965 to the position they presently and proudly hold at the top of the league.

Former Nurnberg boss Herbert Widmayer holds the dubious honour of having started things as early as October 30, 1963 when dismissed by a club seemingly obsessed, judging by their record below, by instant success. They achieved it once too: The Bundesliga Championship in 1967-68 followed by an instant relegation to Regional League South the following season!

The full table is as follows: 1963-4: Widmayer (Nurnberg), Gawliczek (Schalke 04), Wilke (Hamburger SV); 1964-65: Schneider (Hertha BSC), Sommerlatt (Karlsruher SC), Baluies (VfB Stuttgart), Brocker (Kaiserslautern), Gutendorf (Meidericher Sp V Duisberg), Baumann (Nurnberg); 1965-66 Schneider (Karlsruher), Gawliczek (Hamburger SV), Linken (Tasmania 1900), Kronsbein (Hannover 96); 1966-67: Csaknady (Nurnberg), Gutendorf (VfB Stuttgart), Merkel (Munchen 1860), Schneider (Hamburger SV), Klotzer (Fortuna Dusseldorf), Pliska (Rotweiss Essen), Langner (Schalke 04), Roth (Karlsruher); 1967-68: Brocker (Schalke 04), Buhtz (Hannover 96), Munch (Borussia Dortmund), Knefler (Kaiserslautern), Gawliczek (Karlsruher SC); 1968-69: Sing (Munchen 1860), Brocker (Schalke 04), Schneider (Borussia Dortmund), Merkel (Nurnberg), Korner (Nurnberg), Piechaczek (Kaiserslautern); 1969-70: Pfeiffer (Alemannia Aachen), Langner (Munchen 1860), Calkowski (Hannover 96), Stollenwerk (Alemannia Aachen).

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

ITALY by Eric Batty

MEXICO 70

WORLD Cup winners in 1934 and 1938 the Italians have always considered their *Squadre Azzurra* to be, if not the best, then certainly amongst the best. Failing to distinguish themselves in any of the post war series, the Italians couldn't even make the last 16 in 1958 when Northern Ireland put them out in the qualifying competition.

Even in 1962, when they did manage to reach Chile, they achieved little of note except to put something . . . not quite nice . . . in the back of everyone's mind. This was of course the atrocious and often vicious clash with Chile in which it was difficult to decide whether either or both the two sides or the referee were to blame.

But in 1966 the Italians surpassed themselves, gathering an array of talent which as individuals was as good a squad as any in the series but failed to reach the quarter finals. The only game I saw in the flesh was the clash with Russia which was no more interesting than a game of snakes and ladders played by five year olds but to the Italian prestige the final blow was yet to fall. Poor though they played against Russia, they went down 1-0 to North Korea—who were, in fact, a better side than many people believed even after the series, But to the fans waiting at home for results, losing to the Koreans was the final humiliation.

A great many people paid for that failure—team manager Dr. Edmondo Fabbri being suspended by the Italian FA, and even the glamour clubs paid too—through smaller attendances at league games—which reflected the disgust and disillusionment of the man in the street.

Under pressure from their Government and other interested parties, the FA was persuaded to take a close look at its structure and organisation and while a re-shuffle was made at the top, steps were taken to set in motion a process which will eventually put the Italian professional game on a sound financial footing.

In the autumn of 1966 Helenic Herrera was persuaded to accept the task of building a new team and restoring the players morale. His assistant for the first year was an FA staff coach Feruccio Valcareggi who assumed full control when Internazionale FC began to flounder and Herrera felt that he had enough on his plate without the national team job.

The turning point for Valcareggi and the Italians as a whole was their success in the 1966-68 European Championship, which, if considered in isolation, tends to suggest they were more than a little fortunate. In December 1967 Italy were losing to Switzerland in a quarter final tie when a late and very, very doubtful penalty decision gave Riva the opportunity to equalise. Films of the incident showed beyond doubt that "if" there was any offence committted it certainly took place well outside the 18 yard line.

But Italy survived to reach and stage the semi-finals in which England, Russia and Yugoslavia provided the opposition. The Yugoslavs eliminated England while Italy could do no better than draw 0-0 with Russia before winning the toss which put them in the final. At that time the general opinion all over Europe was that the Yugoslavs were the superior side but after a tough game with England another bruising 120 minutes in the final with Italy, the replayed final 48 hours later left Italy with a strong side while their opponents, decimated by injuries, were ground to defeat.

Considered on its own the European Champions label looked a little out of place but when one considers Italy's overall record since the Korean disaster it becomes clear that statistically at least, they have improved to the point where few would argue that the Italians are not currently the best in Europe. In three and a half years since the autumn of 1966 the Italian record reads: Played 20, Won 12, Drawn 7, Lost 1 . . . and that solitary defeat was by a 3-2 margin against Bulgaria in Sofia during which Armando Picchi suffered a serious injury and left ten men to struggle for much of the game against 11.

Perhaps the Italians best performance in this period was the recent 3-0 win over East Germany in Naples. Never having lost a national team game there, Naples was a fortunate venue but there was not even a hint of luck in their convincing 3-0 win. With just a shade of luck Riva alone would have scored a hat-trick instead of only one goal and the team well have put together six or seven, But this match, watched by half the managers of the teams already qualified for Mexico was only the highlight of a very good year.

PIERINO PRATI of AC Milan and Italy. (LPA)

Early in January, the Italians took a 20 strong party to Mexico for two full internationals against the home side in three days. A goal down at half time in the first match, Italy came back to 2-2 and snatched a late winner. Forty-eight hours later they drew 1-1 again with a late goal, which all the experts predicted to be unlikely. The longer the game goes on . . . according to the popular theory . . . the greater will be the effects of physical effort at altitude.

Beating Wales 4-1 and drawing (0-0) with Bulgaria in an end of season friendly, the *squadra* reserved their best performances for the needle games with East Germany. In the away leg, Italy were twice behind but finally drew 2-2 and in Naples despite many injuries which caused an almost complete re-shuffle they produced a smoothly determined and efficient performance which destroyed the East German morale and did enough to convince many critics that Italy must be reckoned amongst the favourites for the Mundial.

With several key players unfit, Valcareggi introduced Cera (Cagliari) and Chiarugi, the Fiorentina winger for their first caps and switched Sandro Mazzola from the

striking centre-forward role to that of midfield general.

Quick, athletic, skilful, determined and extremely well organised tactically the Italians literally destroyed the German defence. Never at any time did the Italians dominate the game for they still rely on the inevitable elastic catenaccio. Falling back into a tightly organised defensive shell the Italians allowed the opposition to come at them and then, snap . . . and away they went in sharp, direct and rapidly developed counter attacks.

One such move led to the opening goal after only seven minutes when Domenghini sent Chiarugi away. Riva, though nominally a left winger played throughout like an extremely mobile centre-forward and as Chiarugi looked up to measure his cross, Riva ran at him looking for the ball in space. Two defenders went with him, and German goalkeeper Croy moved over to cover the near post . . . and there was Mazzola suddenly appearing from nowhere eight yards out to pop the ball in.

Illogical

Luigi Riva—valued at something more than £800,000 on the illogical Italian transfer market played a major role in Italy's second goal too. Chasing the ball after a pass had beeen intercepted he dispossessed an opponent, sprinted with the ball some 20 yards to give Domenghini time to run from right to left of him and then just outside the box when the German defenders finally realised they must now commit themselves, Riva let go his pass just right. Domenghini, turning to meet the ball on his right (best) foot, hit a superb volley that Croy had no hope of reaching.

Before half-time Riva himself notched a spectacular goal created by Mazzola who sent Domenghini away on the right with a perfectly judged pass "inside" the German left-back and when Domenghini crossed the ball first time, there was Riva hurling himself at the ball to beat Croy with a diving header.

Three up at the break, the Italians were home and dry, but though they were obviously content to sit on their lead they could with a little luck have added to what was already a convincing enough margin.

Tactically, most reports described the Italian line-up as 4-3-3 but in fact their basic framework was nothing so simple. There were four at the back—Salvadore playing the *libero* role behind a line of three backs—Burgnich, Puia and Facchetti. In front of the defence were two midfield players whose primary role was defensive—Cera and De Sisti—while Domenghini was often back with them to help too.

With Salvadore "free" being two lines of three defenders, the Germans had very little chance and in fact throughout the entire game, Zoff in the Italian goal was never called upon to make a save.

The Italian attack comprised only two full timers—Chiarugi and Riva who though he played throughout like a centre-forward wore the number 11 shirt. Apparently superstitious he refuses to wear a 9 because on the only occasion he has ever done so (against Portugal in 1967) he broke a leg!

Mazzola played the loose "attacking" game in which Gianni Rivera specialises—constantly showing himself in midfield as a target for clearances and giving immediate support to Riva and Chiarugi whenever they got possession. With Domenghini also "free" to attack when Italy had possession, their 1:3:2:1:1:2 line-up often looked similar to the 4-4-2 basis which England successfully employed in 1966.

Reproduction

A further comparison between England of 1966 and Italy of today is provided by Luigi Riva who at times appears to be an exact reproduction of Geoff Hurst. Unlike the Spaniards and the French, the Italians appear to have bridged the gap between the British-German-Russian style of play without losing the grace and skill of the Latin game.

In 1966 I regarded the Italians as one of the favourites and came unstuck but on the quality and efficiency of their performances in the last 12 months I have no alternative but to stick my neck out again and state quite firmly that I expect Italy to do very well indeed next June.

Where other countries have three or four good class players who are automatic choices, and many more have a well balanced side with one or two positions creating minor problems, only the Italians have an embarrassment of riches. Apart from goalkeeper Zoff and the chief goal-getter Riva, who are in a class of their own, the Italians have two men (and for some positions three or four) who can do their job equally well.

With Riva and Chiarugi for example doing the job which any reasonable man will expect Hurst and Lee to do for England in Mexico, the Italians can cover these two with Mazzola and Prati. Many experts would be inclined to find a place for AC Milan's talented striker at all costs though with only six international games behind him, Prati perhaps is lacking in big match experience.

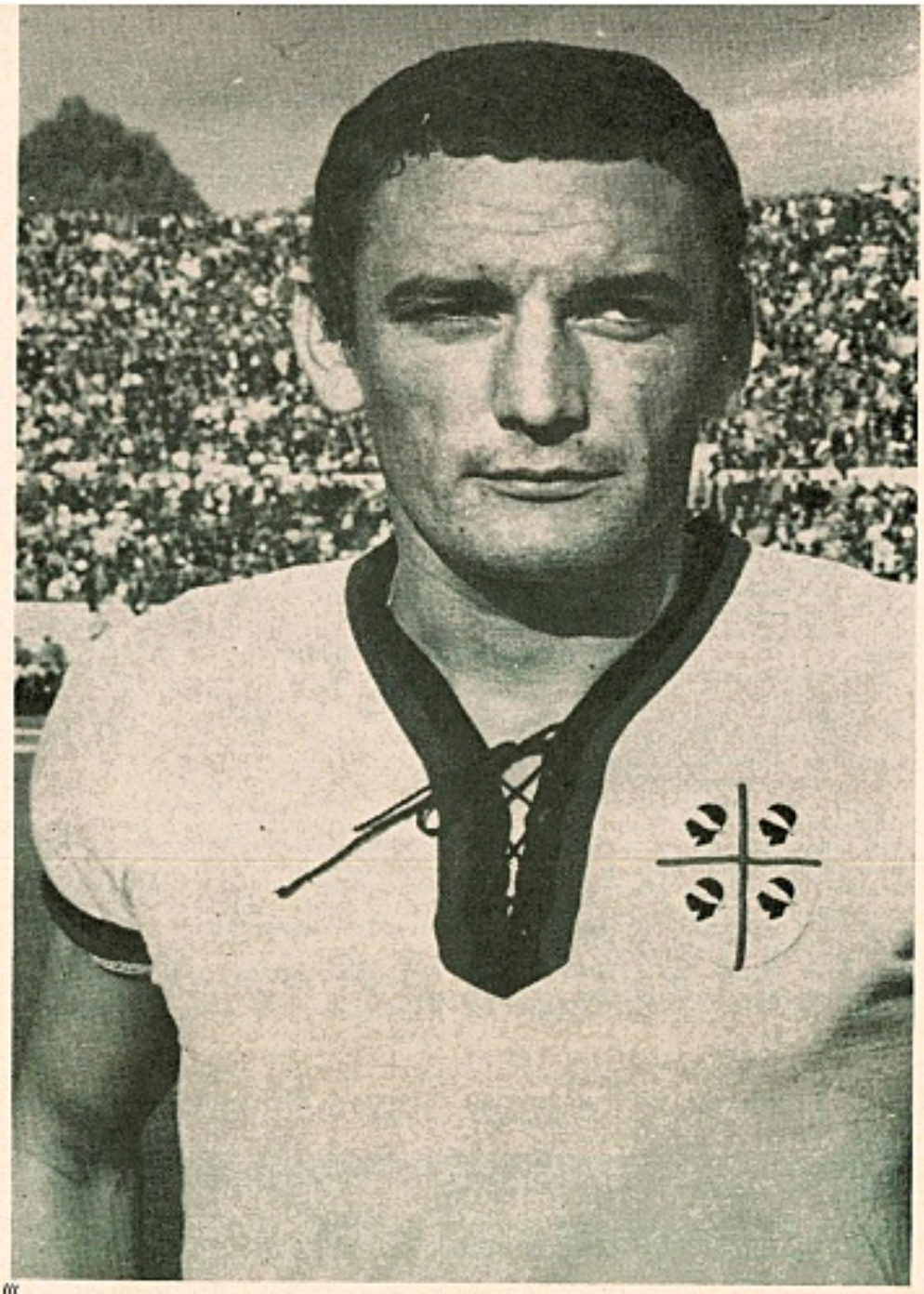
Mazzola also provides cover for Rivera while Domenghini is not only a skilled hard-working and intelligent midfield player but can also perform with real distinction as an orthodox right winger. On top of all these attacking players of real ability there is Anastasi, Juventus' £400,000 worth of centre-forward who was a regular choice a year ago but has recently lost his place.

One of the great problems that has never yet been completely overcome by Spain, Portugal or Italy is to coax out of the individual players a performance which compares with the game he plays at club level. Generally, this has stemmed from a lack of financial incentive (at the level of the national team and a fear of injury and consequent loss of win-bonuses. To some extent at least the morale of the Italian squad is already very high for no one wants to suffer the ignomony of failing again as they did in 1966. The FA have played their part too in handing out £600 bonuses after the clear cut win over East Germany.

Probable party

Probable party: Dino Zoff (Naples), Enrico Albertosi (Cagliari) goalkeepers; Tarcisio Burgnich (Inter), Giacinto Facchetti (Inter), Sandro Salvadore and Ernesto Castano (Juventus), Giorgin Puia (Torino), Angelo Anquiletti (AC Milan) defenders; Mario Bertini (Inter), Giancarlo De Sisti and Claudio Merlo (Fiorentina), Antonio Juliano (Naples), Gianni Rivera (AC Milan) midfield; Sandro Mazzola (Inter), Angelo Domenghini and Luigi Riva (Cagliari), Pietro Anastasi (Juventus) Pierino Prati (AC Milan), Luciano Chiarugi (Fiorentina) forwards.

ITALY: back row left to right: Sandro Salvadore, Giorgio Puia, Giacinto Facchetti, Dino Zoff, Luigi Riva. Front row: Luciano Chiarugi, Sandro Mazzola, Giancarlo de Sisti, Pier Luigi Cera, Angelo Domenghini, Tarcisio Burgnich. (UPI)



Luigi Riva—fantastic goalscoring record for Italy and their great hope for Mexico. (UPI)

Mariona is El Salvador's key defender

AMONG the 16 contestants for the Jules Rimet trophy, better known as the World Cup, there is no name quite so romantic or exotic as that of El Salvador — which incidentally means: The Saviour. The other unfancied finalists like Morocco and Israel are more familiar through their fairly regular contacts with European national sides, but El Salvador? They only made headlines after playing and fighting against Honduras last summer. Now the scramble is on among the journalistic fraternity eager to discover as much as posssible about the playing strength and qualities of this soccer-dwarf pitted against the giants in the forthcoming battles for the premier prize in the world.

I can reveal for a start that El Salvador's national team is managed by the 41-year-old Argentinian Gregorio Bundio. This former Independiente and Boca Juniors player who emigrated to Central America and performed in Guatemala before settling in El Salvador, where he joined the top club Atletico Marte in 1953, is a disciple of the old South American school dedicated to constructive football.

That is why his team scorns the use of a *libero* (sweeper) and base their game on good technique, accurate passing and an attacking style. Not surprisingly, their most exciting stars are forwards "Mon" (diminutive of Ramon) Martinez and "Pipo" Rodriguez, while the best defender is centre-half and captain Salvador Mariona. Perhaps their main weakness lies in the desire to show off individual skills at the expense of team work, but Bundio with his assistant José Santa Colomba are doing their best to drill their young side (average age 22!) and encourage a more methodical but also combative approach.

The Salvadorians owe a great deal to Señor Bundio who founded a soccer school at Santa Anna, their second largest city and which soon boasted 500 pupils and produced six internationals including Martinez and Rodriguez. They have made great strides, confirmed by recent results, and last year even the famous Brazilian team Santos were beaten there. Although they have some 20,000 registered players their financial resources are small and the entire staff of the FA headed by president Jaime Hidalgo consists of only nine members.

Most of the players in the ten-team First Division are only semi-professionals, as the total receipts for the five league matches rarely exceed £5,000. For there is a lot of poverty in this country relying mostly on exporting their chief products, coffee and cotton. But most of the "peons" (peasants) who earn roughly five shillings a day, are more concerned with their fight for economic survival than following soccer which is rated here an expensive hobby—both playing and watching!

Geographically, El Salvador is the smallest Central American republic but the most densely populated with three million inhabitants. It has the most fertile soil and

the only state with no Atlantic coastline, for it borders on the Pacific, while on land it is surrounded by Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Racially the Salvadorians are mostly half-caste of mixed Indian and Spanish blood.

Their World Cup qualification sent a wave of delirious joy throughout the land. 200,000 people—half the population of the capital city San Salvador, including the head of State, General Fidel Sanchez Hernandez—turned out at the Ilopango airport to greet the victorious eleven after their play-off triumph over Haiti which clinched their World Cup place.

Now the merchants are jumping on the band-wagon selling T-shirts proclaiming El Salvador's presence in Mexico, cocktails "Copa Mundial" and numerous products advertising the biggest achievement in this country's soccer history. Those who scoff at their participation among the footballing élite should see their enthusiastic kids trying to emulate the seniors on dusty squares picturesquely lined with palm trees with goalposts made from bamboo. They should pause and wonder how this great game of soccer can reach even the least known corner of the globe. How it can grip people all over the world irrespective of creed, nationality or religion.

Here are the names of their eleven heroes who qualified for the World Cup finals: Fernandez; Rivas, Mariona, Vasquez, Manzano; Cabezas, Quintanilla; Rodriguez, Martinez, Monge, Acevedo. Also in the World Cup squad are goalkeepers Pineda and Suarez, defenders Meija, Castro and Osorio plus forwards Lievano, Sermenio, Penate and Cabrera.

El Salvador may not win any matches in Mexico but their mere participation is a boost to football as a world game. If they play with courage, honesty and pride they can count me among their supporters.

VIVA RIVA!

ONE of the greatest stars of the World Cup tournament may well be Italy's amazing wing or centre-forward Luigi Riva. For the past three seasons he has proved to be the deadliest and incredibly consistent finisher, with the most lethal left foot seen in Europe since the heydays of the Hungarian Ferenc Puskas.

In 1968 the Italians owed their European championship title largely to Riva's seven goals in the four matches he played, including one in the play-off final against Yugoslavia. Recently, they could thank him for reaching Mexico when he scored seven of Italy's ten goals in the four qualifying ties against East Germany and Wales. Note, too, that he scored in every one of those vital, competitive games.

Born at Leggiuno (Varese) on November 7, 1944, Luigi Riva has appeared in some 160 League games for the Sardinian club Cagliari, current leaders of the Italian First Division. He made his international début on June 27, 1965, versus Hungary, but was omitted from the 1966 World Cup squad when Pascutti and Barison had been preferred. By now Riva has played in 14 internationals, scoring 16 goals.

In a country which boasts the tightest defensive formations in the world, a leading scorer is soccer's national hero. By comparison with most European leagues his goals in such circumstances are worth almost double. Yet he displays an unbelievable consistency since 1966–67 when first becoming top scorer with 18 goals. The following season despite missing many games through injury he still finished joint second with 13 goals, only two behind Prati. Last term Riva was tops again—the *capo cannoniere* with 20 goals.

He has already averaged more goals in international matches than any other Italian in history, as seen from this list of best ratios per game: 1, Riva, 1.15 goals per international; 2, Piola, 0.9; 3, Libonatti, 0.88; 4, Schiavio, 0.71; 5, Meazza, 0.64; 6, Colaussi, 0.57; 7, Sandro Mazzola, 0.54; 8, Baloncieri, 0.53; 9, Magnozzi, 0.44; 10, Orsi, 0.37; 11, Ferrari, 0.31.

I should add that Riva apart from his "killer" left foot also specialises in diving headers. The whole of Italy expects a "Riva-show" in Mexico. If he keeps his form then they and the neutral fans are in for a treat!

Searching the Soccer scene with ARTHUR ROTMIL

15-YARD PENALTY

WHAT are the chances of a goalkeeper saving a penalty? Well, according to experts and statisticians they stand at only 20 per cent. Brazil's national manager Joao Saldanha claims that this is unfair, especially as the 'keeper alone has to bear the brunt of punishment for which he is rarely responsible.

Saldanha takes his argument further and suggests that a lot of trouble on soccer fields stems from either the referee's unwillingness to award the supreme retribution or different opinions as to whether a particular offence in the area merits a spot kick at all.

But if the penalty point was moved to a distance of 15 yards then it appears that the chances of scoring/saving would be 50-50. And perhaps referees would have fewer qualms before punishing offenders in the 18-yard box. Saldanha will propose this new amendment to FIFA, together with details of tests he has already carried out. Four of Brazil's most lethal penalty takers were instructed by the national coach to hit spot kicks at national 'keeper Felix from 15 yards. Each player had ten attempts and this is how they scored: Pelé six goals; Tostao six; Rivelino five and Gerson four.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WHEN Leeds United tackle Standard Liege in the quarter-finals of the European Champions Cup they could face up to five foreign mercenaries from the army of players imported into Belgium. Following the ban on overseas performers in Spain and Italy the country with the largest "Foreign Legion" in Europe is now Belgium. This season there are 51 foreigners engaged with Belgian First Division clubs plus 17 active in the Second Division.

Only three imports per team are allowed in league matches but there are no restrictions for European games. Thus Standard might field all five foreign-born stars on their books: the Yugoslavs Galic and Takac, the Czech Cvetler, the Luxembourger Pilot and the coloured German (!) Kostedde.

In 1953 when Beerschot toured the then Belgian colony of Congo, they discovered the potential of African players and soon a great number of them were tempted into this country. After Congo became independent, however, many returned home—among them the first emigrant Leon Mokuna, who was even chosen as Minister for Sport. Next came a trickle of Yugoslavs and Dutchmen, but when the FA permitted three foreigners per team it developed into a flood of mercenaries. Now Belgian clubs can boast players from 18 nations as follows: Holland 17; Yugoslavia 12; Germany 8; Czechoslovakia 5; Luxembourg 4; Sweden 4; England 3; Brazil 3; Hungary 2; France 2; Denmark 2; Austria, Morocco, Finland, Turkey, Surinam and Switzerland one each.

Among them are two who will probably represent their countries in the World Cup finals in Mexico: Axelson (Sweden) and Kvasnak (Czechoslovakia). Other current internationals are Mulder and Rensenbrink (Holland), Michaelsen (Denmark), Tolsa (Finland), plus the Luxembourg quartet of Konter, Pilot, Leonard and Philippe. Former famous stars include: Galic and Zambata (Yugoslavia), Masopust (Czechoslovakia), Emmerich (Germany), Turesson and Nordahl (Sweden) plus Herbet (France).

For this state of affairs the clubs must be held entirely responsible. Whenever a talented local boy is discovered the smaller clubs demand transfer fees of £20,000–£30,000 hoping to "live" off this money for a couple of years. Naturally the bigger clubs would not mind investing such a sum in a future prospect—provided he makes the grade. But at the same time they can obtain ready-made players from abroad and some of those I mentioned cost on average only £10,000. The net result is that, as it happened in Spain and Italy, the potential local talent does not get a chance of a first team place because of the number of foreigners who have invaded this country at bargain prices. I feel certain that the Belgians will pay in time for their misguided policies, especially when the "supply" of mercenaries eventually dries out. Already they have problems with those surplus men whom they offered two- and three-year contracts and now refuse to be transferred, preferring reserve football at high Belgian wages to being underpaid perhaps in France or back home.

Not everybody in Belgium is proud of the claim that they pay the largest number of foreigners in the world. Those who are will find that it is merely a hollow boast.

BRAZILIANS NO ANGELS

LESLIE VERNON has a 'heart to heart' with KAROLY SOOS

A COLD, unpleasant windy day in a sleazy French port called Marseilles. It is the morning after the battle in which an efficient Czechoslovak team literally fought their way into the World Cup Finals by beating Hungary.

The usual international motley of reporters and photographers have invaded the Hotel Splendide where the victors are staying, asking questions, taking innumerable photographs. I decided to seek out the losers in the Hotel L'Arbois and have a "heart to heart" with their team manager, Karoly Soos.

This 60-years-old friendly man with a ready smile, is still incredibly fit and youthful-looking. He has been in football since 1924 when he joined a junior club as a hard-working wing-half. This just above average player later developed into an excellent coach and an internationally respected manager.

He was in charge of Championship-winning teams in Hungary, he "made" East Germany a football power, and on his return to his native country, was offered the job of national team boss. After Marseilles he decided to quit and go back into club management—in Hungary or elsewhere! In any case, "talking football" with a man of his vast experience was a pleasure, and being out of the race, his detached and objective views concerning the forthcoming World Cup might be more significant than those of the ones still involved.

"Life itself is faster than it has ever been," said Soos, "so it is only natural that football should follow this general trend. The game is quicker, more combative. The days of the ball-jugglers, the pure technicians, are over. Everything has to be done at speed for 90 minutes non-stop. The English players are just as good as the Continentals or the South Americans in controlling the ball, but they do it simply and quickly, therefore it is not appreciated. Modern football is more interesting and exciting, but not quite so spectacular as the 'old fashioned' style."

"Are you a steadfast advocate of one of the current tactical formations?"

"Definitely not. I do not believe in 4-2-4 or 4-3-3 or any other system. They only exist on paper in any case. Once the match has started, the players usually perform according to the given situations instead of sticking rigidly to some artificial formula. This is the age of the all-rounder, all the players should be able to defend and attack if necessary. My ideal footballer was Di Stefano, who used the whole pitch as his 'territory'. His conception was ahead of his own time. At present, Bobby Charlton is the perfect 'all-purpose' player. I mention these names because I believe that personality and individual skill have important roles to play. Every team needs a 'leader' on the pitch—our failure yesterday was partly due to the absence of Florian Albert."

ORTHODOX

"You have been searching for wingers during the last two seasons, yet you talk about all-rounders. Isn't there a contradiction?"

"No. Against massed defences one must use orthodox wingers who could also do a defensive job. We were fortunate to have players like Sandor, Budai and Fenyvesi in the past, but nowadays, boys don't want to play on the flanks. We have instituted a special 'school for wingers' for young players. Out of the small number of boys who turned up for these sessions, 80% have never played as wingers for their own clubs. At present we have a promising outside-right, Fazekas, but not a single outside-left of international class. Apart from George Best, there aren't any top-class wingers in Europe today. Prati, Ball, Magnusson are only inside-forwards pretending to be wingers!"

"Joao Saldanha, the manager of Brazil, made some very seething remarks about European football. Do you agree with him?"

"He is an erudite, witty man, but happily, TV commentators do not win World Cups. Admittedly, the European game is more physical due to climatic conditions, but the Brazilians are no angels. Even the great Pele was sent off recently in a club match. They are, like ourselves unfortunately, still dreaming of the 'good-old-days' when superior ball technique was the most important factor. They feel insulted because defenders don't stand back and admire their fancy footwork. I am not impressed with the current Brazilian squad and do not give them much chance in the World Cup. Their version of the 4-2-4 is much too inflexible, their defensive play is weak."

"What do you expect to see in the World Cup?"

"At present I am rather pessimistic as far as the standard of play is concerned. I have been to Mexico three times with different teams, and the altitude and the climate is almost unbearable. It is difficult to say whether or not it is a good idea to spend a comparatively long time before the tournament, as England propose to do. It might be better to arrive just a few days before the first match. I think it is a monstrous idea to fix the kick-off times at 12 noon and 3 p.m. It is practically impossible to walk on the streets because of the intense heat—let alone play football! Otherwise, the Mexicans are very likeable, charming, happy people. For them the whole thing will be a giant fiesta, with music, dancing and feasting."

IN FAVOUR

"What is your opinion about the use of substitutes?"

"I am wholly in favour of tactical substitutions. We must prepare 15 players for a game—not 11. The players must realise that it is no reflection on them if they are asked to leave the field. Lately, I have noticed that the player leaving the pitch and the one coming on for him shake hands. This is an excellent attitude and should be further encouraged."

"The problem of refereeing?"

"Not such a great problem. I would select the best officials and let them get on with the job. If the FIFA officials will try to 'teach' them new habits, the refs will only lose confidence in their own ability. In fact, there is very little difference between the top referees of the Continent, Britain and South America. If you go to the opera to hear Traviata in Madrid, London or Buenos Aires, you will notice a slight local flavour, but the score is just the same!"

"Will the World Cup finish in a sportsmanlike way, or do you anticipate any great scandals?"

PROPAGANDA

"This is a silly idea circulating in Europe. Of course the World Cup will be played-off without any major upheaval. The FIFA and the leaders of the National Associations realise that it is imperative that this great tournament should be good propaganda for the game. I am sure that more players will be sent off than ever before, because the refs will be anxious to reassert their authority from the start. But it is certain that no major scandal will be allowed to develop."

It was time for the Hungarians to board their coach and leave for the airport. Soos got up briskly and through me, wished the England team "good luck" for Mexico. "Pity we won't be there," he said. Yes, great pity. . .

Alfredo di Stefano could be saviour of soccer in his homeland

writes NORMAN CUTLER

NOW the hysteria has died down and newspapers have relieved themselves with their thoughtless, undignified tirades against Argentine football, let us for mercy sake, forget the past and look sanely to the future.

Everything is not as it should be in the Argentine, let's face it, simply because they do not like losing. But a great deal of the newspaper comment would have been better left in the prejudiced minds of the writers. It doesn't help and only increases the already strained relationship that exists between Europe, notably Britain, and South America . . . and certainly offers no constructive contribution to the existing problems.

Making one point on the fiasco, surely the President of Argentine and the Argentine FA would have done better to have closed the Estudiante Club and expelled all officials and players from football. They would then have killed the evil at the root and Argentine football, in general, would have been better off, or at least no worse than that of Italy, Britain and other European countries where disorderly crowds, playing violence and weak officials are increasing, if one is to believe what is reported.

Slaughter

Remember that Estudiantes are the main culprits because of their two year reign of terror . . . although the previous slaughter match involved Racing and CELTIC, more Celtic than Racing.

But recriminations are not constructive or informative. More important are the signs (some of them small) that indicate the beginning of a new era.

The most vital evidence is FIFA's decision . . . "the 1978 World Cup will definitely be held in the Argentine as planned. The recent incidents provide no motive for anulling the candidature," says their chief spokesman. Thank goodness someone is wise and sane.

Supporting this is the fact—flimsy I know—that several Argentine teams participated in Spanish tournaments during August. All, except Estudiantes, behaved impeccably. Something like 25 Argentines play for Spanish league clubs, one can find no fault whatsoever with their behaviour. Four Argentine managers handle Spanish first division clubs, those clubs rate high in the country's correction ratings.

Mission

More encouraging than behaviour abroad is the presence and mission in the Argentine of the great Alfredo Di Stefano.

The fame and ability of Di Stefano needs no recalling. But an explanation of his character does. Few people know the type of man he really is . . . or was.

Alfredo is granite hard and dour. He's silent and unapproachable. He rarely talks to the press, he stands aloof from his countless friends. His manner is terse, abrupt, almost rude. He is often disagreeable and always seems to have a chip on his shoulder.

One day I was sitting with Hector Rial, Ferene Puskas, Jose Luis and Di Stefano at a celebration lunch. Everyone was in a wow of a good humour . . . Di Stefano was surly and silent throughout the two hours, didn't utter one word.

That's Di Stefano . . . a strange character . . . but a man of character.

In 1967-68, after his short-lived disaster as manager of Elche, Alfredo returned to the Argentine and became personal adviser to D. Alberto Armando, president of Boca Juniors.

Unfortunately his character had preceded him and from the beginning the Argentine press was anti-Di Stefano. No one questioned for one moment his tremendous playing and technical ability or his knowledge and experience. His remarkable dedication to the game was immediately held as an example to all. But his manner and inability to establish cordial relations with people and press brought the most bitter criticism from irresponsible sports writers. He was "difficult" they said and "totally unsuitable as a presidential adviser and useless as a club official."

Criticism and abuse was quite the wrong way to handle Di Stefano. Unruffled, as ever, he ignored the continuous attacks and calmly went on with the task given him by President Armando . . . to rebuild and transform the ageing and ailing Boca Juniors.

Personally, with one or two selected aides, he patiently and thoroughly searched the country for new and unknown players. He laid down these rules . . . "I want young players . . . players with spirit and fight . . . tough but fair players . . . and most important of all I WANT FOOTBALLERS NOT MATADORS."

Authentic

And so the rebuilding of Boca Juniors began.

Last year Di Stefano was appointed manager-coach of the club . . . and the real transformation took shape. He introduced revolutionary changes. Concentrations dedicated specifically to physical fitness . . . long sessions devoted to tactics . . . and practice games given over entirely to attacking football. Defensive thinking and the old 4-3-3 system was completely out. Di Stefano insisted that Boca Juniors play with two authentic wingers and six forwards.

He ruthlessly dropped long serving players and introduced new discoveries . . . an 18-year-old Negro centre-half Madurga . . . two provincial youngsters Ponce and Pena . . . Nicholas Novello and others.

The most difficult task Alfredo had to face was telling the famous Antonio Rattin that there was no place for him in the new attacking regime. Rattin, idol of Boca Juniors for 12 years, captain of the National side, the greatest stopper centre-half Argentine has ever produced, was the architect and pillar of the negative defensive outlook which Di Stefano maintained has caused the decline of Boca Juniors.

Rattin took the new philosophically for, despite his martyrdom in the 1966 World Cup, he is a professional in the most honorable sense of the word. He retired gracefully into the shadows and awaits hopefully for recall.

Erupted

But the newspapers erupted as never before. Rattin's photograph occupied the full front page of several newspapers. Leading articles demanded his immediate reinstatement, petitions were organised, demonstrations launched. The press demanded . . . and howled. There were even questions "in Parliament". But Di Stefano rightly refused to be intimidated, remained unmoved and continued with his policy of rejuvenation. To his credit Antonio Rattin remained silent and loyal to Boca Juniors.

As the season progressed Di Stefano's policies brought success. Enthusiasm . . . expectation . . . ambition . . . and football as it should be played, was inspired by "Old Man Stef".

Boca Juniors were on their way back . . . and in climbing back stand as an example of the finer aspects of the game and a happy omen for the future of Argentine football.

FOOTNOTE: Since this article was written Boca Juniors have won the Argentinian championship.

URUGUAY has one of the best records in the World Cup. Champions in 1930 and 1950, eliminated in the semi-finals once and in the quarter-finals twice, they only failed to reach the last 16 once. But winning the qualifying group versus Chile and Ecuador this time, didn't even impress their own supporters.

Ecuador never were a serious threat in any competition and Chile, without stars such as Figueroa and Prieto (playing for Uruguayan clubs which did not release them) and injured Araya, Fouilloux and Valdez for the vital game, also played soccer which may have been nice to watch but was too soft for modern times.

Uruguay's display prompted Obdulio Varela (Uruguay's captain when they won the 1950 World Cup) to say: "Soccer has changed for the worse, without doubt. Why do we so often play for a draw, when we always have a chance to win?"

After qualification had been gained, national team coach, Juan Eduardo Hohberg, was the first to admit that the Uruguayan team did not have enough preparation. Training was started earlier than usual, but then there was a six-week break because of a pay dispute between the players and the FA which nearly put Uruguay out of the World Cup. By then Hohberg had formed a sound defence, but the weakness was in attack where only Cubilla and Rocha had enough experience for international football.

Right after the preliminary group games in August the team was disbanded while the Uruguayan League Championship took place. This was due to finish at the end of the year.

In the meantime, while the Press laments that Uruguay will once again go to a world championship without the necessary preparation, Hohberg says it will leave just enough time which will be used to the best of advantage.

On the programme, in April and May, are five games in Colombia (including a tournament between Brazil, Peru—the other two World Cup qualifiers from South America—Uruguay and the home team). Home and away games with Argentina and another against Yugoslavia, at Montevideo, are in the process of being arranged.

But the players had not been picked at press-time. Hohberg had a list which he was keeping secret until the FA put the players at his disposal. He admitted that there might be changes from the 22 entered for the qualifying games, and which included eight Peñarol and six Nacional players, because several newcomers had impressed him during the current league championship. Uruguay would be going to Mexico with the men in form and not building on reputation, he said.

National team coach, Hohberg, born in Argentina, made his name in Uruguayan soccer as a goal-scoring forward with Peñarol from 1948 to 1960 and was nicknamed "the hangman" because he spoilt so many goalkeepers' reputations.

He also played for Uruguay in the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland. As a player he stood out because he found the way to goal so easily. As a coach, he expressed his preference for making the ball do the work and save the players' energy and he didn't like forwards dropping back to defensive positions and looking to the fast counter-attack as their chief weapon.

But, Hohberg said, Uruguay has to move with the times and will adopt the tactics most suitable according to the rivals they face—which will mean accent on defence, because that is their strongest department.

Players likely to be on Hohberg's list are:

Goal: Ladislao Mazurkiewicz (Peñarol, 25 years, 82kg., 1m. 78cm.); Luis Maidana (Cerro, 36, 77, 1.75).

Backs: Atilio Ancheta (Nacional, 21, 78, 1.86); Roberto Matosas (Peñarol, 29, 77, 1.75); Juan Paz (Rampla Juniors, 25, 80, 1.81); Juan Mujica (Nacional, 26, 72, 1.76); Pablo Forlán (Peñarol, 24, 77, 1.82); Luis Ubiña (Nacional, 29, 75, 1.77); Omar Caetano (Peñarol, 26, 70, 1.68).

Halves: Pedro Rocha (Peñarol, 27, 78, 1.81); Julio Cortez (Peñarol, 28, 70, 1.72); Milton Viera (Peñarol, 23, 78, 1.77); Julio Montero Castillo (Nacional, 25, 70, 1.81); Dagoberto Fontés (Defensor, 26, 72, 1.76).

Forwards: Luis Cubilla (Nacional, 29, 76, 1.70); Rubén Bareño (Cerro, 26, 71, 1.75); Hector Silva (Peñarol, 30, 7
Morales (Nacional, 25, 68,
Zubía (River Plate, 24, 70,
Silva (Racing, 22, 73, 1.74).

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youngest at 21. The newcome
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may reduce the average age

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half-back in front of them,
mid-field and three forwards
expected, national teams, whi
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function the same way.**

Defenders Ancheta and Mat

Uruguay's team of Maz
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Caetano, Montero
Bareno Cortes, Rocha
and Sergio Silva which
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Half, Cortez, generally operating on the right, is a close marker with a strong shot when he gets anywhere near the opponents' area—which isn't often. Although a good ball player, he shows up better in defence than attack. The other half, experienced Pedro Rocha, is a real organiser of the old-fashioned centre-half type. He stands out for his coolness, strong shot with both feet and excellent heading, but he doesn't like close marking and occasionally disappears from the game for long periods while he tries to shake off his markers.

But the attack is usually limited to the disorderly rushes of Luis Cubilla, a clever forward with plenty of international experience, a good physique and courage to fight through tough marking, which makes up for his comparatively poor ball control. Others, such as centre-forward Hector Silva and Rubén Bareño or Oscar Zubia, playing close to the line, show speed and ball control, but lack experience and find the way to goal difficult due to disorganised play and lack of team work.

When Uruguay attacks, their wing backs join the forwards. Ubiñas or Forlán, from the left, generally send across high centres, while Mujica, from the right, has a dangerous long-range shot.

STRONG AND WEAK POINTS

The Uruguayan players' strongest points are ability and temperament, a tremendous will to win, never more evident than when they won the 1950 World Cup at Rio by beating Brazil 2-1 against all the odds. But they have tried to copy European tactics and as a result some of the ability and creative power have been lost.

Now defence is the strongest department, beginning with an exceptional goalkeeper, Mazurkiewicz, whose safe hands, quick reflexes, speed in coming out and reducing the attackers' room to shoot, strong kicking and spectacular saves make him the complete goalkeeper and South America's No. 1 in the position.

The four-man rearguard is safe under fire. Ancheta is good at anticipation, destruction, heading and covers his zone well. He has a good understanding with the other centre-back, Matosas, an experienced player of exceptional technical ability. The wing-markers are strong and safe in the air, but slow to recover once beaten. But Montero Castillo is usually there to help, on the left or right, and Cortez molests all attackers nearing the penalty area, as well as winger Cubilla who often chases the opposing wing. Uruguay's could be one of the defences to concede least goals in the World Cup.

Opposing defences would have to watch the long-distance shots at goal from Rocha and Cortez and the corners and high centres, because these two as well as Montero Castillo, Ancheta and Ubiñas are good in the air and generally in the right place to score. But opponents should not have much trouble in stopping attacking moves, or even stop them from building up, because the Uruguayans are slow at this and, as mentioned, lack experience and team-work in attack.

Because of their strengths and weaknesses, Uruguay may plan most of their games relying on defence and counter-attack (which they are slow in building up) even though Hohberg may not be fond of this method, but occasionally they may have to go all out in attack and then several cracks may appear in their armour. For example, the tendency of their wing backs to go up with their forwards, but not being fast enough to get back in time.

On the whole Uruguay is a slow team. They may have been successful in the World Cup preliminary games because they risked more in attack than their rivals, but that doesn't say much for Chile and Ecuador. Over all we get the picture of a team not willing to risk much and rather play safe, knowing their own limitations.

On the other hand, many of the players are hot-tempered, risk being sent off, easily lose control of themselves and play rough. Montero Castillo is the worst offender, but

MEXICO 70

URUGUAY
by Eric Weil

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On the other hand, many of the players are hot-tempered, risk being sent off, easily lose control of themselves and play rough. Montero Castillo is the worst offender, but Cubilla, Caetano and Ubiña are not far behind. When the players lose their temper, Uruguay either goes to pieces and resorts to the rough stuff, or play with that well-known fury which can overcome superior opposition.

In either event, rivals had better watch out, but I can't see Uruguay setting the World Cup alight. They may cause a few incidents however, although coach, Hohberg, said he would not stand for rough play and has no trouble in keeping discipline.

Pedro Rocha, an organiser of the old-fashioned centre-half type. (EW)

MEXICO 70

URUGUAY
by Eric Weil

s no rough
ho knows ?

OPINION: The team Uruguayan players fear most is West Germany and Hohberg rates them in the top four also. For many West Germany, who inflicted Uruguay's heaviest defeat in the last World Cup, should have been the 1966 winners.

RIVERA TOPS

PARIS, December 23.

GIANNI RIVERA, captain of European Cup holders AC Milan, was today named winner of the Golden Football as Europe's best player of the year by the magazine "France Football".

Second place in the magazine's poll of top European Sportswriters went to another Italian, Luigi Riva of Cagliari. Football journalists from 26 countries voted in the poll, widely regarded as crowning Europe's top player.

Rivera was awarded 83 points in the poll, four ahead of Riva. Third place went to Gerd Müller, while fourth place was shared by Johan Cruyff and Sweden's Ove Kindvall. Last year's winner, George Best, was sixth.

Other placings: 7 Beckenbauer 18 points; 8 Prati 17; 9 Jakov 14; 10 Jackie Charlton 10; 11 Chesternev 8; 12 Dzajic 6; 13 Lee and Peters 4; 15 Bobby Charlton and Sormani 3; 18 Sideris, Bene, Kvasiak, Velasquez, Pilot 2; 23 Bremner, Dejna, Domazot, Gross, Jimmy Johnstone, Lubanski, Mountian, Van Hoer, Viktor 1.

LEON

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VEN

report from STE

ALL World Cup finalists are now known and on January 10 at the Hotel Maria Isabel in Mexico City the 16 were divided into four groups of four teams each. The games between the teams in each group will be played at five different venues, with every group being designated to a certain arena or arenas. The matches in group one will be played at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City, group two games at the Estadio Cuahtemoc in Puebla and Estadio Toluca in the city with same name, Guadalajara is host to group number three where the games will be played at the Estadio Jalisco, and the fourth group matches will all be played at Estadio Leon in Leon.

With the games between the different teams sure to be tough enough there are also some natural characteristics of the Mexican landscape that might influence the competition. What I refer to is the altitude and the heat. The various World Cup sites are all situated a few degrees south of the tropic of cancer meaning that the month of June will most likely not present what might be labelled cool weather. The altitude is another detail that might cause some trouble, especially so in conjunction with the heat, the stadium in Toluca at one extreme being located 2,680 metres above sea level. Though the different venues have much in common each one has its very own personality and it can therefore be of value to take a closer look at what will in only three months be the centre of interest for the world of football.

Group one has been chosen for the capital of Mexico, Mexico City; situated 7,347 feet (2,240 metres) above sea level, it is one of the world's largest cities with a population exceeding seven million people. The games in Mexico City will be played at the beautiful Aztec Stadium with a seating capacity for 107,000 spectators. Estadio Azteca, which was completed in 1966 after four years of construction, is an exciting stadium to play in and almost a dream from the fan's point of view. Despite the size, every spectator will have an unobstructed view of the action. Presently the pitch in itself is not the best, but in time for the World Cup a new turf will be in place. The field in convex so that when it rains, as it can do almost daily in June, the water will go off immediately. The host country Mexico will play in group one.

Group two matches will be played in two cities, Toluca with 100,000 inhabitants 40 miles (64 km) west of Mexico City and Puebla with 360,000 residents 79 miles (127 km) south-east from the capital. The stadium in Toluca is the oldest of the five. By appearance it resembles somewhat various European grounds where one stand has been built at a time and not one side looks like the other. Estadio Toluca has room for 35,000 spectators, including 5,000 standing only. The Toluca Stadium has the healthiest turf of the 1970 World Cup arenas, but has been built in

GUADALAJARA

TO

EXICO 1970

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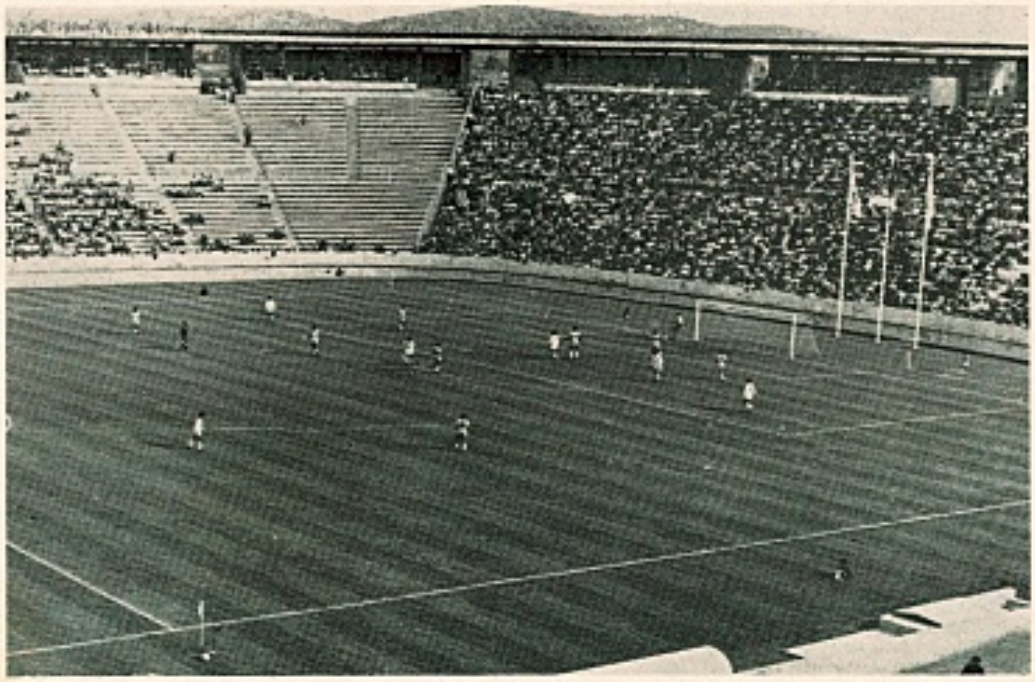
LLAN DANIELSSON



PUEBLA

direction east-west making afternoon games a nuisance with a glaring sun at one end. The altitude, 8,924 feet (2,680 metres) and a pitch heavy from regular rainfall, can make the Toluca Stadium a very difficult one to play in.

Estadio Cuahtemoc in Puebla is the newest of the five, just completed a year ago in time for the Olympic games. Puebla is situated 7,090 feet (2,162 metres) above sea level with an average afternoon temperature in June of 23 degrees centigrade which is somewhat warmer than in Mexico City and Toluca.

SECOND LARGEST

Guadalajara, 5,140 feet (1,567 metres) above sea level, will be responsible for group number three. Games are to be played at the Jalisco Stadium with seats for 71,081 fans Guadalajara, with over two million inhabitants, is Mexico's second largest city and is located 361 miles (581 km) west of the Mexican capital. The city is known to be one of the most beautiful in Mexico and as being the breeding ground for the country's best footballers. Estadio Jalisco is recognised for having the most outstanding playing surface in all of Mexico. Defending World Champions England will play in group three.

Group four matches will be played in the city of Leon, 6,183 feet (1,885 metres) above sea level, 240 miles (386 km) northwest from Mexico City. Together with Guadalajara, Leon, with 300,000 residents, is the hottest of the World Cup sites. The average temperature at 2 p.m. during the month of June reaches 28 degrees centigrade. The stadium in Leon is a modern installation, but in size the smallest of the five World Cup arenas not holding more than 25,303 seated spectators.

Generally it can be said that for a well conditioned athlete the altitude should not constitute as grave a problem as the heat. Of course it will be an intelligent thing to let the ball do most of the work at these heights.

To combat the heat and to play under the most comfortable conditions Mexican league teams schedule their games at the following hours. First division clubs America, Atlante and Necaxa, who play in the Aztec Stadium, hold their games at 4.30 p.m. on Sundays and 8 p.m. on Thursdays. First division side Deportivo Toluca start home Sunday games at 11.30 a.m. Second division team Puebla play Sunday home ties at the Cuahtemoc Stadium starting at 12 noon. The four clubs that use the Jalisco Stadium for home matches, first division sides Atlas, Guadalajara and Ora plus second division member Nacional, play their games exclusively at night with kick off at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In Leon first division club Leon and second division club Curtidores start Sunday home ties at 12 o'clock noon. World Cup games at all stadiums will start Sundays at 12 noon and weekdays at 4 p.m.

LUCA

MEXICO CITY

Luck of the Draw Ceases

Fairs Cup review by ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE luck of the draw enjoyed by the four English teams in the first round of the European Fairs Cup, when they opposed Glentoran, Dundalk, Dundee United and Rosenborg —names hardly likely to stir the imagination of the "Into Europe" enthusiasts — has deserted at least two of them after the Second Round.

In effect, the holders Newcastle and European debutants Southampton found that instead of crossing over to the Continent they have to play each other, literally on their own shores of the Channel. You could hear the groans of disappointment all the way from St. James's Park to the Dell and back, especially as these clubs had also been paired together in the English FA Cup!

There was already an astonishing coincidence in Round Two, when the four English entrants were drawn exclusively against Portuguese teams. In addition, the four Italian survivors of the First Round were all meeting German sides — two of them admittedly from the Eastern Republic. Two German teams provided in fact the biggest shocks of the round by eliminating strongly fancied Italian clubs: Carl Zeiss Jena's victory over the Italian League leaders Cagliari 2-0 (h.) and 1-0 (a.), though the Sardinians were deprived in the home leg of their injured internationals Riva and Cera. West Germany's Hertha Berlin sprang a surprise, too, when they put out Juventus 3-1 (h.) and 0-0 (a.) after a tremendous rearguard action in Turin where they conceded 14-1 corners but no goals.

MISTAKE

The Italian successes included Inter-Milan who, after losing 1-2 at Rostock to Hansa, made no mistake at San Siro winning 3-0 with goals from Jair, Suarez and Mazzola in the first 27 minutes. The others, Napoli, returned all-square (0-0) from Stuttgart but one goal by Canzi saw them through (1-0) versus VfB at home.

England's first and only casualty were surprisingly Liverpool—perhaps because a fortnight before they fell, the English bookmakers proclaimed them favourites to win this competition at 8-1! It was Vitoria Setubal who carried the Portuguese flag alone into the next round by beating Liverpool first 1-0 at home. In a dramatic return at Anfield, Vitoria led, thanks to a penalty plus an own goal, by 2-0, but Liverpool fought back to win 3-2, their last two goals coming in the 89th and 93rd (!) minutes—alas, all in vain for the visitors survived under the away-goals-count-double ruling, which half the crowd apparently did not grasp, as they waited for extra time!

Of the three English teams who marched into the Third Round, Arsenal did well to knock out the Portuguese League pacemakers Sporting Lisbon who missed a penalty (Peres) in the goalless home leg and then lost 0-3 at Highbury, thus helping the Gunners to restore some of their flagging confidence in domestic football.

BEMUSED

Southampton, languishing near the bottom of the First Division, surprised their followers by holding Vitoria Guimaraes to a 3-3 draw in Portugal, but even more by winning 5-1 at home where the bemused guests slithering in pools of water presented them with an own goal, appropriately in the 13th minute.

Newcastle, however, found the going unexpectedly tough against Porto, when after a 0-0 away they only scraped home by 1-0, having caught the hapless Portuguese on a blanket of snow—just like they did against another Iberian side, Setubal, last season.

Of the Scottish contenders Dunfermline scored two narrow wins over the inexperienced Polish side Gwardia Warsaw 2-1 (h.), 1-0 (a.), while Kilmarnock who were fortunate to pile up a 4-1 home lead against the Bulgarians from Slavia Sofia, struggled in the return tie when 0-2 down by the 24th minute and had many escapes before getting through.

The most emphatic victories were registered by Anderlecht, who slammed Coleraine by 6-1 in Brussels and followed up with a 7-3 goal-riot in Northern Ireland, having led already by 6-0 at the interval. The chief destroyers were the Belgian internationals Paul Van Himst and Wilfried Puis, who each hammered a hat-trick — Puis's included two penalties. Another big score was run up by last season's Champions Cup finalists Ajax Amsterdam, who crushed the Poles Ruch Chorzow by 7-0 at home thanks to two goals apiece from Vasovic, Cruyff and Van Dijk, plus one by Swart, to be followed by a 2-1 success away.

Rumania's Dynamo Bacau confirmed their defensive qualities for they yet have to concede a goal after four matches. Of course, they had modest opponents this time in Skeid Oslo, who only managed a 0-0 at home, but went out 0-2 in Bacau. Equally few problems had Barcelona faced with the provincial Hungarian side ETO Raba of Györ whom they defeated 3-2 away and 2-0 in Spain.

Apart from Setubal, two more clubs advanced under the away-goals "bonus". Rouen of France thus succeeded at the expense of Belgium's Charleroi who found a 3-2 home score insufficient to balance the subsequent 0-2 reverse. But the most sensational recovery was staged by the newly crowned Hungarian champions Ujpest-Dozsa. After losing 2-5 in Bruges for whom Dutch international Rensenbrink hit a hat-trick, and the Swede Turesson got two, the Magyars, despite a goalless first half, romped home by 3-0 to qualify!

SLUMP

Encouraging note: Only two men were sent off in this round, namely Turesson (Bruges) and Cruyff (Ajax) as compared with seven in the first round. Turesson incidentally received marching orders for arguing against Ujpest's first goal, which possibly explains the Belgian slump.

The highest gates were claimed as expected by English clubs in this order: Newcastle v. Porto, 44,800; Liverpool v. Setubal, 41,633; and Arsenal v. Sporting, 35,253.

On the Continent the highest attendance was for Sporting v. Arsenal with 40,000, followed by Hertha v. Juventus 35,000, most of them flocking to see the famous German international Helmut Haller in the Italian ranks. By comparison only 3,000 bothered to turn out in Milan to watch Inter v. Hansa Rostock.

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NIGERIA'S MANAGER

by NORMAN CUTLER

WHICH Southampton player became a star of Real Madrid and an African country's hero? A quiz question that would puzzle most people. The answer is Sabino Barinaga, the famous Spanish manager, now fighting to save an almost doomed First Division club from relegation. This, in brief, is his story . . . a success story that links England, Spain and Nigeria.

Sabino Barinaga arrived in England in 1936, a tall wavy-haired youngster—already a good footballer—to finish his education at the Nazareth Catholic School, Southampton. He quickly became a popular figure in schoolboy and local amateur club football.

In 1938 he was signed as an amateur by Southampton and served under the most respected personality in "The Saints" history, Tom Parker.

Barinaga has never forgotten Tom Parker and still talks about him. "He was always very kind to me in those troubled days. He willingly gave me help and advice and was responsible for much of my later success."

That success came quicker than Barinaga ever dreamed. Almost immediately after returning to Spain in the early months of 1940, he was approached by Real Madrid and signed for them a few weeks later, in the April. He made his début for Real on October 6 and the following week, against Hercules, scored the first of his many goals.

He quickly became one of Real Madrid's brightest and most popular stars . . . sharing the headlines with Spain's great soccer names of the 'forties . . . heading club and league goal-scoring tables . . . an international . . . and when his playing days ended, a famous manager.

During his years in management Barinaga experienced the usual ups and downs that are the fate of most Spanish managers. But gave great service to Seville, Betis, Valencia and particularly Atletico Madrid, whom he saved from relegation after taking over when the club had a seven-point deficit. Earlier he had guided Osasuna, Oviedo and Malaga.

Last spring came his African adventure. He was invited to Nigeria by Godfrey Amachree, chairman of the Nigerian FA, to manage and coach the national team for the World Cup qualifying competition. Nigeria feared the prospect of facing their neighbouring rivals, Ghana, ill-prepared and without expert advice. Barinaga accepted.

The strange customs and conditions baffled him during the first few days but he overcame them . . . and to the surprise and satisfaction of everyone, Nigeria caused the upset of the African section by eliminating Ghana. They won at home in Ibadan (2-1) . . . then went to Accra, primed with a Barinaga defensive plan, and in a beetle game, gained the point they needed.

Barinaga's success in six short weeks made him almost a national hero . . . and so pleased were the Nigerian FA that they invited him to return in August for the final eliminating matches against Sudan and Morocco.

During Sabino's second stay in Nigeria the national team developed out of all recognition. In warm-up games they drew 2-2 with the famous Santos of Brazil, and only lost in the last minute against Palmieras, fresh from their triumphs in Spain. Brazilian officials were amazed at the high standard of play shown by the Nigerians. They publicly expressed their admiration at the "pioneer" work being done by President Oyo, Chairman Amachree (of the NFA) and men like Sabino Barinaga who venture into the unknown for the love of football.

Nigeria were eliminated from the World Cup. They drew (1-1) their vital game against Sudan at home . . . more than anything because of the elements. The match was played in a torrential rainstorm—a cataract—which within minutes turned the playing pitch into a lake.

Barinaga returned to Spain tired and exhausted . . . but highly satisfied. He had fulfilled his mandate more successfully than he, or anyone else, had hoped. During his short régime Nigeria had played six vital nerve-racking international matches, won two, drawn three . . . and lost only to Morocco (1-0) in Casablanca.

Manager Barinaga? Chairman Amachree says: "We all attribute the success of our national team—the Green Eagles—to the guidance given by Sabino Barinaga. We failed to qualify, but we were far from disgraced as might have been the case had we gone into the competition ill-prepared and without his help.

"Our only regret was that Mr. Barinaga could not stay with us longer, although we hope he will return in the near future."

Nigeria? Barinaga says the country has a promising football future. Not perhaps as world champions, but as a country who play the game as it was intended to be played and one that is, and will be, a credit to world football.

The Nigerian FA, under Oyo and Amachree, are working hard to improve the game at all levels. They are helping the schools, trying to engage the best coaches and encouraging the most important teams to visit Nigeria. Rumania and Bulgaria have already been there and it is hoped that two or three other good class football nations will accept invitations this season.

Unfortunately, the Association is faced with many problems. There is no national league in Nigeria. Because of communications football is localised in the country's 12 provinces where many of the clubs are sponsored by business houses. This lack of countrywide competitive football is a great handicap. The champions of the provincial leagues do manage to play each other in an open cup competition, but the inter-rivalry is too confined to help very much.

Conditions, too, are handicapping . . . the intense heat, torrential rains . . . and fever. "Sometimes you pick 11 players on Thursday, and by Saturday half are down with fever," says Barinaga. The shortage of equipment is another problem. Hardly anything is manufactured in Nigeria and shirts, shorts, balls and other equipment all have to be imported. (When Barinaga made his second visit he took 24 Spanish balls with him to help out.)

"Nigeria's weakness from a playing point of view," says Sabino, "is that, in general, the native Nigerian lacks professionalism, dedication and discipline. On the other hand the national squad, because they were proud of being selected, were wonderful in their determination to succeed. They were enthusiastic, willing to learn and worked hard at their training in the intensely hot conditions. They gave all they had and did all I asked of them."

Don't make the mistake, warned Barinaga, in thinking that the game is in a primitive stage (that's what the Brazilians and other visitors thought) . . . or that there is a lack of public interest. In Ibadan, 200 miles from Lagos, where most of the World Cup matches were played, there is a most wonderful stadium. It holds 45,000 people, with stands, players' accommodation and administrative sections that are most modern. The playing pitch is equal to the best in Europe. Kadana and Kano also have very excellent and modern grounds that hold around 40,000. At important matches, especially the internationals, all these grounds are filled to capacity with singing, shouting, cheering crowds. The support that the native gives the players is terrific. The big match atmosphere and the enthusiasm just cannot be described.

Sabino Barinaga was met by his family at Madrid's Barajas Airport on the Wednesday evening. Forty-eight hours later he was offered the management of the almost doomed Real Mallorca.

Once again Sabino Barinaga has become Dr. Barinaga . . . the medico of ailing teams.

Coaches Visit Mexico

Report from CARLOS RAMIREZ

IN the past few weeks, several head coaches of national sides—already classified for the World Cup have visited Mexico: Sir Alf Ramsey (England), Raymond Goethals (Belgium), Helmut Schöen (West Germany) and Joao Saldanha from Brazil. To the list we must now add Waldyr Pereira (Didi) who arrived at Mexico City on December 9.

Didi has been in Mexico many times He knows the conditions here well since he was head coach of Veracruz between 1965 and 1967. Critics agree that the amazing campaign of the "two-penny" Veracruz team in the current season is basically due to Didi's work two years ago. He went to the sandlots in the port and picked several young players who eventually made the first team. Of those boys, six—Molina Saucedo, Vázquez, Montes, Damián and Hernández—are basic members of the team, which is now in third place.

Didi told me that Brazil can win the World Cup, but it will not be an easy task. "In 1958 and 1962, several basic and great players amalgamated into a great side," he recalled. "Pelé, Vavá, Amarildo, Zito, Zagallo, Djalma and Gilmar just happened to get together by one of those lucky twists of fate that so often happen in football. The great teams of the past, the Austrian Wunderteam, the 'Máquina' of River Plate, the 1954 Hungarian team . . . it was just a lucky coincidence that those players got together and 'clicked' in a definite time.

"I don't feel Brazil have those players today. Pelé will again suffer from close tackling and rough play as he suffered in 1962 and 1966. And he is—although a more seasoned player—almost 30 years old."

As for Perú, Didi is confident they will be a surprise: "If we play in León, we will be able to get our players going with confidence before we move to quarter finals. Because I can almost guarantee we will classify in our group."

Didi's confidence springs from the fact that he has the players, but as a team, not as individuals. "Players like Challe, Perico León, 'Cachito' Ramirez . . . are assets to any national side today. They had a series of—complexes—after all Perú had never been in a World Cup since 1930. The Peruvian player has a tendency to overrate himself before a match, and underrate himself during the match. I had to re-educate their minds, give them confidence. I think we have achieved it."

Perú will play four warm-up matches against Mexico this year.

* * *

The organising Committee of the World Cup is facing another crisis. The very peculiar set-up of the Mexican Football organisation—creates conditions which could easily be blamed on Latin temperment, but in fact they could happen in any country where "disorganised organisation" occurs.

Let us take for instance, Mr. Guillermo Cañedo's several functions.

At the same time, he serves in the FIFA Executive Committee, is President of the Mexican Federation of Football, President of the Organising Committee of the World Cup, President of the America team of Mexico City, employee of the biggest national television network, stock holder of the Azteca stadium, etc., etc. He is to be sure, "The President of Presidentes."

Naturally, wearing so many hats he is bound (as it has happened often in the past) to create conflicts of interest. Recently, because of a legal demand pending against the owners of the Estadio Azteca and needing cash to pay their debts, Emilio Azcárraga Jr., one of the owners and Cañedo's boss in the television enterprises and the América Club, announced a plan to build 250 new boxes in the Estadio Azteca.

Construction

This would represent lowering the pitch approximately four yards underground, thus permitting the construction of 125 boxes at pitch-level and another 125 on top of the stadium, with lifts to grant ready access from the ground level. They pulled up the pitch in January and promised to have the stadium ready before April 30.

Mr. Cañedo is unhappy for many reasons: the stadium would be closed during four months which means no box office money. Besides, they would have to use the Olympic Stadium, home ground of the Universidad team (which is no partner of Cañedo in the Estadio Azteca) thus paying them a huge fee for using it.

The International Tournament scheduled for January, would also take place in the University Stadium reducing the budgeted income; and worst of all, the Mexican national side will basically have to get used to a new pitch and a new stadium just one month before the World Cup, thus diminishing their chances to make a good show from which depend so many commercial plans.

No, Mr. Cañedo is not a happy man these days. But we have several sayings in Spanish that apply. One would be "Donde Manda Capitán, No Gobierna Marinero" (Where a Captain gives the orders, the sailor just obeys). Or "El que siembra vientos, Cosecha Tempestades" (He who sows winds, reaps hurricanes).

WORLD SOCCER SCANNER

THE excitement caused by the closest championship race ever experienced in this country has been temporarily suspended with the advent of the usual long winter break now enjoyed by the Swiss footballers and their fans for two and a half months. With a game in hand FC Zürich head the table on goal difference from Lugano and Lausanne. Only three points cover the top 10 (!) teams and obviously the powerful clubs with reserves of strength plus playing resources must be favoured for the title.

The battle for honours will be resumed on March 1, and if the second half of the programme develops as dramatically as the first, then all attendance records may well be broken. Despite the fact that the last three rounds were played on thick snow and ice covered grounds, gates were up by 22,700 as compared with this stage last year, reaching a total of 719,500.

In temperatures several degrees below freezing point most players turned out in tights, gloves and even ear-muffs, but the forwards clearly revelled in these conditions for on the last Sunday before the break 31 goals were scored in seven games. This beat the season's best established in the first round which produced 30 goals. Champions Basle won two home games by the big scores of 5-1 v. Biel and Wettingen 6-2, with their German forward Jürgen Sundermann getting two goals in each of these matches, but underlined their inconsistency by losing 0-2 at Zürich to Grasshoppers.

Lugano were held to a 2-2 home draw by Lausanne, lost 1-2 at Fribourg but followed with a 5-2 win over Chaux-de-Fonds, thanks to a fine hat-trick by the German Otto Luttrop. Lausanne grabbed a vital away point at Lugano (2-2) another one at Berne from Young Boys (3-3) and beat Chaux-de-Fonds 2-0 at home. Servette of Geneva faded after their tremendous start to the season but are holding fourth place despite indifferent performances: 0-1 home defeat to Fribourg, 2-0 win at Biel and a 1-1 home draw with Grasshoppers, who are level on points with them.

FC Zürich owe their top spot to two home victories over Wettingen by 3-2 and Bellinzona 3-0, whilst their postponed game with St. Gallen will be played next spring. St. Gallen are in fact the "wooden spoonists" three points behind Bellinzona, a sad position for the Cup holders and finalists!

Practically every club will prepare for the resumption of the league campaign in a different way. Basle will spend ten days in Las Palmas, while Grasshoppers have arranged a week at Palma de Mallorca. Lausanne are hoping to visit Brazil and Lugano will play four games in Kenya. Zürich's stars will even play some ice-hockey (!) matches to keep fit and many players are going to ski—at their own risk!

Leading goalscorers: Luttrop (Lugano) 9; Blättler (Lugano), Dimmeler and Konietzka (both Winterthur) 8; Hauser (Basle), Künzli (Zürich), Meier (Wettingen), Pottier (Servette) and Vuilleumier (Lausanne) 7.

ARTHUR ROTMIL reports

FC ZURICH RETAIN TOP SPOT

Aarón Padilla (Universidad) and Javier Fragoso (América) flanking Enrique Borja (América). In spite of the fact that Borja is temporarily out of the national side, there are little doubts that the three will be forwards in the Mexican team for the World Cup in 1970.

Finest Midfield Players

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WEST GERMANY's team of the moment are Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach, the "half-time" leaders of the Bundesliga. If tradition is followed then BMG should become champions, for so far every club topping the table at this stage has managed to clinch the title.

After the statisticians, next we hear from the tacticians: The two leading sides boast the finest midfield players in the land, Netzer (BMG) and Overath (Cologne). Third place Bayern Munich, the defending champions, have their Beckenbauer (as *libero*) but the absence through knee injury of their Austrian-born schemer Gustl Starek is proving a handicap which even Gerd Müller's usual quota of goals cannot overcome.

Naturally, Müller's exploits are still making headlines, now that he has caught Uwe Seeler in the list of all Bundesliga scorers—both on 109. With 17 to his credit this season, Müller is about to smash Lothar Emmerich's record of 115 goals since 1963. In addition, Müller has emerged as the top striker in all eight European World Cup qualifying groups with nine goals out of Germany's total of 20. Only Brazil's Tostao has managed to hit one more in the same number of games.

Although the German fans' attention is beginning to focus on the Mexico finals, the past month provided ample talking points concerning mainly the managerial movements. First to depart, admittedly for health reasons, was Kickers Offenbach coach Paul Osswald. Next, 1860 Munich engaged the famous Austrian Franz Binder, the first player in the world to score 1,000 goals in first-class football. The Munich side in dire trouble at the bottom of the league responded immediately to the new boss with their first win since the start of September. Local rivals Bayern also sprang a surprise with the announcement that coach Branco Zebec is leaving at the end of the season. Hardly a sensation when it became known that he was paid a measly £400 a month and had to take orders from the club's technical director Robert Schwann. Zebec, a former Yugoslav star forward, will be succeeded by Udo Lattek (34) who up till now was the assistant to national manager Helmut Schön. This post will be taken over by a former German international Jupp Derwall.

An even bigger shock was reported from Hanover who dismissed the redoubtable "Tschik" Cajkovski, another Yugoslav chief and the man responsible for some of Bayern's greatest triumphs. Cajkovski was accused of negotiating secretly with 1860 Munich and his sacking was followed by the resignation of Hanover's president Struthe. Finally Alemannia Aachen also "lost" their coach, Georg Stollenwerk, who departed at his own request. Next replacement is Willibert Weth—a sports teacher. At this rate of movement it won't be long before the German managers form a union to protect their interests!

Meanwhile Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach increased their lead at the top to five points. They inflicted on Cologne their first home defeat since January 18 (1969) winning 1-0 and followed with a great 3-1 victory at Hamburg. Even more decisive were their home triumphs over Hanover 5-0 and Oberhausen 6-1, thus celebrating their manager's Hennes Weisweiler's 50th birthday.

Gates continued to rise despite wretched weather conditions and reached a total of 3,461,000—201,000 more than in the corresponding period last season, giving an average of 22,838 per match. The highest gates were registered by Hertha Berlin with 440,000 for the formidable average of 55,000 per game, which is a new record.

GEMMELL . . .

LAST year proved to be a somewhat checkered one in the controversial career of Celtic and Scotland full-back Tommy Gemmell, the hero of the 1967 European Cup Final.

Beginning the season intent on helping Celts retain the League Cup, FA Cup and League Championship trophies they had won the previous season, Tommy's year suddenly turned sour on him last October.

It all began when he was the only player sent off in the bruising West Germany/Scotland World Cup match in Hamburg. He was disciplined by the club and dropped from Celtic's League Cup Final team to play St. Johnstone the following Saturday.

A transfer request followed and was granted. But as the weeks went by it was obvious that fear of a repeat of his temperament has stopped the clubs that could afford to buy him from making an offer.

But, undaunted, he fought back. Regained favour at Parkhead, helped put Celtic back on top of the Scottish League, and ended the year on a good note when he was nominated as the world's best right-back for 1969 by the Brazilian paper *Journal dos Sports*. Not only that but in other polls organised by Yugoslavia's *Sport* and Hungary's *Nepsport* he was also voted Europe's top number 2.

MALTA . . .

MALTA celebrated the new year by staging its first ever full international, a friendly with Luxembourg.

The visitors took a shock lead after only 10 minutes through Nicolas Hoffmann and although the Maltese dominated play their equaliser didn't come until 11 minutes from time.

With goalkeeper Stendebach excelling Malta were limited to two real chances in the first period. First Cini saw his back-header cleared off the line by a defender and then Borg shot over the bar when well placed following a corner.

The tale of woe continued into the second-half. After just three minutes Cocks missed with a header and then with Stendebach for once a mere spectator, Borg's shot cannoned from the bar. But they wouldn't be denied. Cini controlled a ball from Borg and scored on the turn.

Another feature of this match was that it was the first time that Maltese players had been paid for representing their country. Their initial payment was £20 which was doubled in case of victory. This was also the first time their players had been insured for a match.

A one time annual feature on the Maltese football scene, the Christmas tourney, was revived for the recent festive period and Yugoslavia's Sarajevo were invited to take part.

Playing five games in all, Sarajevo won the lot with a goals tally of 15 for and only three against. It was noticeable however that on three occasions only late goals kept their 100 per cent record in tact.

Willie Waddell (left) and Jock Stein together before their first "Old Firm" match as rival managers. (A)

JOHN STONE

Waddell is dedicated

ALTHOUGH Scottish football nosed into the 1970s and a new decade with no immediate prospects of World Cup glory, all is set for an era of excitement.

Three facts, although possibly unconnected, make me feel certain that, while the 1960s hardly saw Scotland's stock soar in international football, at club level times can be better still.

Fact 1: The dramatic appointment of Willie Waddell, late in the old year, to take over the tough task of managing Glasgow Rangers.

Fact 2: Celtic manager Jock Stein's confident claim that Scotland is still producing the finest young footballers in the world.

Fact 3: (and this, in a sense, is very much tied up with fact 2). Top-class English managers are flocking in their droves to Scotttish matches. Scottish players are in greater demand than ever. Indeed, the year was a mere three days old when Peter Marinello left Hibs for Arsenal with £98,000 changing hands.

For a country which has been so abysmally unsuccessful in the international field, Scotland has still made a tremendous impact on the European scene in recent seasons, sparked undoubtedly by Celtic's bringing the European Cup to Britain for the first time.

But let us examine these points in the order listed. Waddell's appointment as overlord of Ibrox is by far the most far-reaching, for Glasgow Rangers are, as I have said so often in these columns, not a football club, but an international institution.

It is years since they have had what they themselves would call a GOOD season. Being merely League runners-up and beaten Cup Finalists is regarded around Ibrox as abject failure.

The winners' rostrum is the only place for a Rangers side. In his playing days, Waddell was weaned on success.

MANAGEMENT

He was a member of a post-war Rangers side which, for years, dominated the Scottish scene just as emphatically as Celtic have for the latter half of the 1960s.

Waddell, once the broad-shouldered, fast, dangerous-raiding winger, acquired a taste for success which in later years he took with him into football management.

At unfashionable Kilmarnock, he confounded everyone by winning the League Championship before moving back into journalism.

Several top-class English clubs tried in vain to tempt him back into football management, and some of their offers were excellent.

But Waddell, who to some appears stubborn, to others remote, to me completely dedicated to winning, did not take long to make up his mind. When Rangers showed their keenness to have him at their helm, the invitation was quickly accepted.

No man was more severe in his criticism of Rangers under young David White. It was not unfair criticism, but biting only because of his personal involvement with a great club.

Then, in early December, he found himself back inside the imposing Ibrox ground, in charge.

It was made clear when Waddell had agreed to sign a long and lucrative contract that he would be in sole charge of team matters and selections.

Here at last was the man capable of rivalling Jock Stein, who had breathed new life into a Celtic club which, when Stein arrived from Hibs, was in a similar state to the Rangers of 1969.

Wadddell can do for Rangers what Stein has done for Celtic. He can make them not just a secondary force in Scotland, but genuine threats to Celtic's dominance.

Equally important, he can make them a force again in Europe, for no man is more widely travelled, no man is more aware of the need for organised planning.

Rangers are a club who have always been big without necesssarily thinking big. Now, it would appear that they have started to think in terms of their own size.

Waddell had hardly arrived than they were announcing plans for a new image both on and off the field.

Ibrox, of course, is already a ground far in advance of almost every other in Britain. But by the end of the decade, just begun, it will be a dream home.

Their massive Development Fund is likely to have swelled cash for improvements beyond the million pound mark by 1975, and it will not be allowed to lie gathering interest in the vaults of a Glasgow bank.

Director David Hope announced: "The money cannot be used to buy players, but it will make Ibrox the best stadium in Europe.

LUXURIOUS

"We will spend that money to have capacity seating and a luxurious social club. Ibrox will be a showpiece and the fans—the people we must care about most—will have wonderful spectating conditions."

In other words, Ibrox can become the first ground in Britain where everyone watching will be seated.

Waddell was made aware of these ambitious developments before he agreed to become manager ,and the man responsible for building a team to match such palatial surroundings.

I may be wrong, but if any man is capable of the task, apart from Stein who has proved it, that man is Willie Waddell.

Stein's statement about Scotland producing the finest young talent available is being proved by the number of "outsiders" creeping in and building up youth and schoolboy contacts.

Men like Stein and Waddell, and other bright young managers like George Farm at Dunfermline, Kilmarnock's Walter McCrae and Aberdeen's Eddie Turnbull are aware of English clubs' ever-increasing interest.

I cannot see any hope of stopping sales, like Marinello's. But if the best of Scotland's teenage talent can be snapped up by clubs at home, those £100,000 transfer fees shelled out willingly by wealthy "Sassenachs" can keep Scottish soccer flourishing.

Fees like Hibs collected are going to keep many of the smaller clubs going. Admittedly, it is going to improve still further the chances of Celtic and Rangers dominating the Scottish scene, for these are two clubs who do not need to sell.

But as long as the supply does not dry up, and Stein seems optimistic that it will not, clubs like Hibs, and Aberdeen, just two who have sold star players recently, must retain chances of giving the "big two" a run for their money.

Burnley survive in England by selling a star a year. I feel many Scottish clubs are attempting to follow their lead.

ANDREW DETTRE writes

Will Aussies learn lesson?

LITTLE, sometimes almost invisibly minute, microscopic things make or break a team in soccer. A careless pass, a badly bouncing ball or a shot that rebounds from the upright—these cannot be foreseen even by the most astute coach or manager.

Well, Australia had all these in its matches against Israel—and some more. Neither in Tel Aviv, where Israel won 1-0, nor in Sydney, where it was a 1-1 draw, did the ball ever run kindly for the Aussies. The end result: after its elimination marathon, undoubtedly the "travellingest" in World Cup history, the tough Australians tripped and fell at the last hurdle.

Paradise lost—this is how we all feel in Australian soccer. After the success in the Seoul tournament and then in Mozambique, after having shoved Japan, South Korea and Rhodesia aside, Australia became the victims of a talented, polished, composed though not brilliant Israel.

In my story of last month I retraced Australia's incredible globetrotting which would have well satisfied a Jules Verne hero, so no more of that. Let's hope that FIFA will learn from its own muddling.

Stubborn

But to us the important question is whether Australia will learn, too.

"In Tel Aviv we were crucified," said captain John Warren on the team's return to Sydney. "That was our own Golgotha."

The Australians had to travel from Mozambique to Tel Aviv where the match was set down for a Wednesday afternoon. As a third match was needed in Lourenco Marques to subdue the stubborn Rhodesians, the Aussies had to stay in Mozambique longer than expected.

However, their travel arrangements were still reasonable; they were supposed to fly from Johannesburg via Rome to Tel Aviv, arriving there on Monday afternoon. But the team's management, quite incredibly, changed all this, delaying the departure from Mozambique by a full day and then, using another airline, flying via Angola, Lisbon, Rome and Athens, the team arrived in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile the Israelis obligingly postponed the match from Wednesday to Thursday—but it was no use. The Aussies travelled some 38 hours and had to play against Israel a mere 32 hours after their arrival. So Golgotha it was.

In the Tel Aviv match the travel-weary, sleepy-eyed Australians stood no chance. Spurred on by a crowd of 50,000, Israel held the initiative throughout the match and, with luck, could have scored at least four goals. As it was, their winning goal was a fluke: a free-kick by Shpigler some 20 yards out would have gone wide but ricocheted off the shoulder of Zeman into Corry's net.

Still, there was hope; the Aussies arrived back in Sydney eight days before the return match and a win was certainly not beyond them. Or one would have thought.

But then the last sad episode began in this tragic saga of Australian officialdom's bungling. Instead of keeping the team together for the all-important return encounter, which could have secured Australia the tickets to Mexico — the "responsible" officials let the players go home, only to be re-assembled five days later, on Thursday. And the match was to be played on Sunday. . . .

Overseas

But wait; worse was still to come. On all their overseas missions the Australians had two managers, a doctor and a physiotherapist with the team. In Sydney they had none of these "luxuries". The manager of the team who was able to take eight weeks off from work to go overseas simply wouldn't or couldn't spare three days in Sydney.

This stupid and apathetical kind of "build up" before the most vital soccer match ever played in Australia cast a gloom over the team. They tried hard enough in the match but at no stage did they reach even 50 per cent of their effectiveness.

Israel was playing for a draw but they did this without packing their goalmouth with defenders. Time and time again their midfielders, notably Shpigel and Schum, simply "froze" the ball, securing a methodical if apparently slow Israeli advance on the Australian goal.

Had Israel's striker Feigenbaum possessed better reflexes, Israel could have been leading 2-0 after 20 minutes. And that is not defensive football, as we know it. In the entire first half Australia could create only one chance—and the writing was on the wall.

Defensive

The second half ran its predictable course. Australia attacked, without any real conviction, only to be repulsed by Israel's excellent defence, led by Rosen, Bello and goalie Vissoker. Then, with 12 minutes to go, Australian full-back Keith completely misjudged a bouncing ball; Shpiegler pounced on it and smashed it over the head of the advancing Corry from some 14 yards, right under the upright.

That was that. Although Australia equalised with two minutes to go when Baartz slipped a pass to Watkiss who shot home from eight yards, Israel had little trouble holding out for a draw—and becoming the 16th country to reach the Mexico finals.

Airborne John Watkiss sends in a powerful header for Australia against Israel in Sydney.

Once there, they are most unlikely to cause a ripple. Israel plays a modern, attractive type of game, very reminiscent of the Austrian or Hungarian school but without their elegance and artistry. And we all know just where Austrian and Hungarian football is today. In goalie Vissoker, stopper Rosen, full-back Bello and forwards Shpigel and Shpiegler the Mexican crowds will get to know some very fine players. However, it would surprise me no end if Israel reached the quarter-finals.

As for the Australians, only the players and the supporters feel cheated—not those officials who could have helped to avoid this bitter disappointment. Here and there some questions are being asked about Australia's naive preparations but judging by the past, no remedies will be suggested or swallowed.

It would take some mighty rocking of the boat to awaken Australian officialdom from its comatose condition—and those who could do the rocking are precisely the people who were responsible for the fiascos. They either can't or simply won't admit their own shortcomings, step down and allow more knowledgeable people to take over. Like a crazed captain, they'd rather go down with the ship than allow someone else to save the vessel. Except that in our delightful set-up the naval tradition is slightly different: the ship goes down all right—but the captain manages to save his skin. . . .

MEXICO 70

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
by ERIC BATTY

PATH WAS NOT EASY

AFTER more than three years in the saddle, Jozef Marko has finally steered the Czech national squad to a place in the last 16. The path to Mexico has not been easy for the Czechs and at critical moments they were more than a little fortunate.

For selector/manager Marko the World Cup has brought personal vindication, for throughout his three years of effort he has been frequently assailed by his critics and at one time they seemed numerous enough to force the Czech FA to replace him. When he first took command in 1966 one of his earliest tests was a visit to Wembley where just a few weeks before, England had carried off the World Cup. With Dukla 'keeper Ivo Viktor in fine form and England apparently having lost a lot of their zest during that summer, Marko got away with a goal-less draw which few Czechs had dreamed was possible.

Later, however, with more and more players from Slovak clubs being introduced to the national side Marko's critics, particularly in Prague, grew in both numbers and influence. Late in 1967 when the Czechs were forced out of the European Nations Cup by the Republic of Ireland, who beat them 2-1 in Prague, Marko's prestige was at its lowest ebb. Early in the second half the Czechs led 1-0, and with a draw good enough to see them through to the quarter-finals it seemed they were home and dry. Late in the game Inter-Bratislava inside-right Juraj Szikora was carried off with a broken leg and this, according to the critics after the event, should have been the signal for Marko to go defensive. Substitutes were not allowed in the series at that time and one goal up the ten Czechs could, and perhaps should, have held out; but in the closing minutes the Irishmen, outplayed for the majority of the game, hit back with two goals.

At a Press conference after that match, almost the entire squad of Czech journalists walked out on Marko after politely quizzing the Eire officials, and in the months that followed Marko's job hung in the balance.

Grouped in the World Cup qualifying competition with Hungary, Denmark and again the Republic of Ireland it was clear that the really critical matches would be the two clashes with Hungary. Yet as things turned out, while the Hungarians took the honours, in both these battles they finally lost their private war against their northern neighbours.

With six points already accumulated after two games with Denmark and a visit to Dublin, the Czechs flopped very badly at the Nepstadion where the Hungarians began their World Cup campaign with a 2-0 win. This match was a disaster for Marko and the Czechs who allowed themselves to be rattled early on, and with key forward Adamec concentrating on a personal feud with Hungarian right-back Kaposzta and continuously complaining to the inadequate referee the Czechs completely lost their grip on the game. The Hungarians, never at any time in this match looking like a great side won with two good goals from Antal Dunai and Florian Albert who got his head to a volley from Bene to flick the ball past the wrong-footed Czech 'keeper.

After this match it seemed that the Czechs were all but eliminated. They needed nothing less than a miracle to put themselves back into the running . . . and got one when the Hungarians unexpectedly lost 2-3 away to Denmark in Copenhagen. This left the Czechs and Hungarians all-square with everything to play for when they met in Prague, and once more the Czechs proved that the immeasurably important quality, luck, was with them.

Two glaring defensive errors led to Hungary scoring twice to lead 2-1 at the break and a few minutes into the second half it looked all over when Arpad Fazekas hit Hungary's third. Hungarian manager Karoly Soos certainly thought so, for 3-1 up he took off Fazekas to bring on an extra defender.

Influenced

In the last 13 years, however, the Czechs have been beaten only once by Hungary and this knowledge, allied to a headed goal by Kvasnak, kept the Czechs in the game. Ladislav Kuna, the withdrawn centre-forward of champions Spartak Trnava, finally brought the scores level at 3-3; a goal which no doubt influenced many of the experts who later voted him the Czech Footballer of the Year.

With their programme completed the Czechs had to wait while Hungary played off their two outstanding home matches with Denmark and Eire, and gaining full points from these two games a play-off was staged early in December at Marseille.

At this time, however, the Hungarians were in serious difficulties. Dunai II (the Dozsa striker) and Pancics (the dominating stopper from Ferencvaros) were both unfit and with Albert still inactive, following his injury in Copenhagen, the strong man of their defence, Lajos Szucs, was suspended by FIFA after being sent off late in the Budapest match with Eire.

The depleted Hungarians put up a stout fight in Marseille, with Bene and Meszoly their outstanding individuals. With only two minutes of the first half remaining the veteran Andrej Kvasnak (on loan from Belgian Division II club Racing Malines) faced Szentmihalyi from the penalty spot. Kvasnak's old head and long legs might have made all the difference had he played in the first clash in Budapest, but in Marseille he calmly slotted home the penalty from which the entire Czech squad seemed to take encouragement.

If they had not believed before that they *could* reach Mexico and win their $1,000 a man bonus they certainly did so now. For

Czechoslovakia line-up before the game in Marseille. Left to right: Adamec, Vesely (F.), Pivarnik, Petras, Jelinek, Hagara, Kuna, Kvasnak, Migas, Viktor, Horvath. (Batty)

the second period the Czechs came out looking for more goals. They got them too through Frantisek Vesely after only 11 minutes, and soon after this goal Adamec cracked home a free-kick "bent" round a three-man wall the Hungarians had put up.

With ten minutes remaining the Slovan centre-forward, Karol Jokl, scored again to put the issue beyond all doubt, and it was left to Lajos Kocsis to score the Hungarians' consolation goal with only seconds of the game remaining—from the penalty spot.

Certainly the Czechs gave good value for their win on the day but once more the Hungarians' goalkeeper problem let them down badly. Antal Szentmihalyi between the sticks did nothing to inspire confidence and certainly he might well have prevented the Czechs second and third goals.

Frighten

Having eliminated Hungary, the chair-bound critics might well be tempted to make Czechoslovakia one of the favourites for the Mundial in Mexico. But to do this would be to ignore the fact that the magic of Buda and Pest have gone—no longer do the Magyars have reason to frighten anyone.

The magical moments of individual skill are still there — though more and more rarely seen nowadays—but in attitude the Hungarians have become more and more amateur at a time when the game is being dominated by the dedicated professionals.

For the qualifying matches Marko relied very largely on 4-2-4 with the midfield pair, Kvasnak and Kuna, almost stationary in the space between defence and attack. Very capable technicians, both are intelligent enough to sense the moment to advance for the scoring chance but with the full-backs asked to play a greater part in attack, Kvasnak and Kuna usually hang back to attempt to delay the enemy and gain time for Pivarnik and Hagara to recover.

Against a four-man attack the Czech defenders take zones, but against the modern three-man spearhead the Slovan Bratislava stopper, Alexander Horvath, drops back to become almost a *libero*. Hagara on the left flank is the more adventurous of the Czech defenders; big, strong and quick and frequently a scorer in league matches.

In attack, Marko has several problems not least the simple fact that far too much depends upon the unpredictable Jozef Adamec who scored all three goals in the 3-0 win over Eire in Prague, but might just as well not have turned out against Hungary in Budapest.

Quick and talented, Adamec was a reserve in the 1962 squad (while with Dukla) and with Kvasnak is the only other survivor of the squad that reached the final in Chile. Predominantly left-footed, Adamec has a tremendous shot and using the inside or outside of his left foot as well as the full instep, he can hit the ball with such power and swerve that he often scores from 25 to 30 yards out.

The unreliability of Adamec apart, Marko has problems also on either wing. On the right he has used both Frantisek and

Jozef Adamec's free-kick roars home for the Czechs' third goal in France. Szentmihalyi is Hungary's goalkeeper. (Batty)

Bohumil Vesely — the former of Slavia and the latter from Sparta. Frantisek is perhaps stronger, but Bohumil is quicker and better on the ball, but both tend to delay getting their crosses in.

On the left the final choice is from three men all of whom have been tried and found wanting: Dusan Kabat (Spartak Trnava), Jan Capkovic (Slovan Bratislava) and Karol Jokl who plays inside to Capkovic at club level. Kabat has improved considerably during the last two years and his partnership with Adamec for Trnava gained him the vote on numerous occasions. As an individual Capkovic is probably the better all-round player but a switch to 4-3-3 for Mexico might preclude them both and leave room for the inclusion of Jokl.

In Marseille, Marko took a bold step by introducing Ladislav Petras of Inter-Bratislava for his first cap. The top Czech league goalscorer in the 1968-69 season (when he was with relegated Dukla Banska Bystrica) Petras moved to Bratislava during the summer and was used against Hungary as a decoy front-runner to make space for Adamec and Jokl.

For Mexico, however, Petras seems destined for a place on the reserves bench, for the chances are that Marko will finally opt for a form of 4-3-3 with Horvath dropping to give cover to the defence and a more defensive-minded wing-half introduced to play defensively in front of the back four. This would allow both Kvasnak and Kuna to express their ability a little more without losing stability in defence, and the most likely choice for this role seems to be Ivan Hrdlicka of Slovan Bratislava.

This leaves Marko's problems more simplified, for with Adamec and Jokl the punch-men he would then have a clear choice between the two Vesely's for the right-wing berth.

There are two other players who have real chances of gaining a place in the first-choice side for Mexico—right-back Karol Dobias (Spartak Trnava) and inside-right Juraj Szikora. Dobias was an automatic choice until the first clash last June with Hungary in Budapest. In the opening minutes, with no one near him at all, Dobias twisted his knee and after being carried off underwent an operation for the removal of a cartilage.

He should recover in time for the second half of the league programme which begins in March, and in that event he would have ample time to stake a fresh claim for his old place. Szikora, still only 23, has made a complete recovery from the leg he broke against Eire and has added another ten honours to the five caps he had at that time.

Although the Czechs have this season enlarged their First Division from 14 to 16 clubs they took the precaution of completing 17 rounds during the autumn. This leaves them only 13 rounds to play, beginning in March and quite probably the championship will be wound-up prematurely by staging matches in mid-week.

Marko has already made a broad outline of his plans, however, which begin with a 14-day training stint during February in the French Pyrenees immediately before the clubs begin their pre-spring season friendly matches. In all probability the final stages of the Czech FA Cup will be postponed until the autumn and in any event the domestic programme is scheduled for completion by May 6 to allow the World Cup squad to fly to Mexico on May 10.

Probable party: Ivo Viktor (Dukla), Alexander Vencel (Slovan) goalkeepers; Karol Dobias, Vladimir Hagara (Spartak Trnava), Alexander Horvath and Jan Zlocha (Slovan Bratislava), Jan Pivarnik (VSS Kosice), Vaclav Migas (Sparta) defenders; Andrej Kvasnak (RC Malines), Ladislav Kuna (Spartak Trnava), Juraj Szikora (Inter), Jaroslav Pollak (VSS Kosice) midfield; Bohumil Vesely (Sparta), Frantisek Vesely (Slavia), Jozef Adamec and Dusan Kabat (Spartak Trnava), Karol Jokl and Jan Capkovic (Slovan Bratislava) forwards.

POPULAR BOCA WIN TITLE...

IT was said after Argentina was eliminated from the World Cup and it was said again when Estudiantes de La Plata lost the Inter-Continental Cup against Milan—"The only thing which can save this football season would be a title win for popular Boca Juniors"—and it happened.

Boca Juniors won the National Championship in a grandstand finish against their eternal rivals, River Plate. The latter were two points behind and at home. A new all-time gate record was set, although some seats remained unsold and the Municipality made it a maximum 75,000 attendance as a safety measure. Takings amounted to 46,479,000 pesos (£56,000).

Boca only needed a point to take the title, but they went all out for victory from the start and built up a 2-0 lead with goals from Madurga—who has had a lot to do with their success all season—after 12 and 35 minutes. Play went rapidly from end to end in an exciting game, but Boca was far better organised and River's defence had a job holding them. Mas reduced the arrears for River before half-time with a long range shot which caught goalie Sanchez by surprise.

It was a different story in the second half when River's defence was tighter with Vieytes replacing Dominichi. After 22 minutes Marchetti scored the equaliser for River who attacked more. Only Boca's strong defence, and at times luck, saved a point for them.

It was a match without incidents in spite of its importance. A pity therefore that police arrested some 220 spectators who caused trouble in the stands and that when, after the game, a Boca fan ran on to the field shouting *"Viva Boca"*, he was promptly caught by several River Plate players and cowardly beaten up in full view of the public.

Thus Boca Juniors became national champions for the first time (in the tournament's third year) while River Plate were caught up in second place by San Lorenzo who beat neighbours Huracan 2-1 in another of the last day's three classics. The two teams were due to play off for the right to enter the South American Club Championship—the "Libertadores" Cup—along with Boca Juniors and the holders, Estudiantes de La Plata.

Boca Juniors had their ups and downs, but in a season in which most teams concentrated on defence, they stood out because they went for attack with two orthodox wingers. There is no doubt that under the guidance of former Argentine international and Real de Madrid forward, Alfredo Di Stefano, they were the team of the year. After winning a pre-season international tournament at Mar del Plata, they came in first in their group of the Metropolitan Championship (the former First Division), but went out after drawing the semi-final with River Plate because they had scored one goal less during the championship. In between they won the new Argentine Cup and then took the national title to complete, what in England would be called, the "double". Boca's weakness, apparently, was facing the enthusiastic semi-professional teams from the provinces. Apart from the draw with River Plate, they dropped their only other points against Desamparados from San Juan (one), Union from Santa Fe (one) and San Martin from Mendoza (two) who inflicted their only defeat on them—and at home, too.

Altogether Boca Juniors played 50 games in the Metropolitan, Cup and National tournaments, winning 32, drawing 11 and losing 7 with a 91-31 goal average. They deserve more space and I will deal with them more fully next month.

SOUTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RECORDS—1969

		Home					Away					
	Pl.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	%
BRAZIL	9	6	–	–	20	4	3	–	–	10	–	100
PERU	13	5	1	–	10	3	2	1	4	10	13	47
URUGUAY	7	2	–	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	1	64
ARGENTINA	8	2	2	–	6	4	–	2	2	2	5	50
CHILE	9	1	2	–	5	2	2	1	3	5	7	50
BOLIVIA	4	2	–	–	5	2	–	–	2	–	4	50
PARAGUAY	11	2	1	2	3	5	2	1	3	4	6	45
ECUADOR	5	1	1	1	5	4	–	–	2	1	5	30
COLOMBIA	12	1	–	5	5	10	–	2	4	6	15	17
VENEZUELA	6	–	1	2	1	8	–	–	3	–	10	1

SATISFIED

Actually San Lorenzo scored more goals than Boca in the National and they finished with an unbeaten run of 14 games, but they still don't look very solid, especially in defence. River Plate, who have the best record of any club since professional soccer started in 1931, but haven't won a title since 1957, again had to be satisfied with second place (for the eighth time since then). They were undefeated in their last 15 games and had won eight on the run before the draw with Boca. Yet they haven't been playing well either and protested bitterly that the four-game suspension of their forward, Daniel Onega, was hampering their chances in the important final games.

South American Cup holders, Estudiantes, improved in their last game and finished in the middle of the table, but, as mentioned before, coach Osvaldo Zubeldia is on the look-out to strengthen the team for next season. Racing, who won the "world title" against Celtic in 1967, went to pieces in the National and blamed it on the ten-game suspension of their Brazilian forward, Machado da Silva. They got some of their confidence back in the Super Cup games against foreign opposition (for which Machado da Silva was eligible) and with it came improved league form towards the end. On the last day they even put it across their neighbours, Independiente, who had

ERIC WEIL reports from ARGENTINA

been fighting for the title until a week before.

Small club, Quilmes, were the revelation with revolutionary tactics explained in an earlier article. Although not keeping up their early spurt, they finished fifth, but their success didn't help them much. They ended the season owing seven months' wages to their players.

Fischer (San Lorenzo) and Bulla (Platense) were the top scorers in the National Championship with 14 goals each, but when adding goals scored in the Metropolitan Championship, Bulla came out top with 23, followed by Fischer (22), Mas (River Plate) and Yazalde (Independiente) 20.

NEW INTERVENTOR

Government intervention of the Argentine FA continues under yet another new Interventor—Doctor Juan Oneto Gaona—an industrialist who knows little about soccer and doesn't profess to do either.

In his first press conference he announced his programme to solve Argentina's most serious soccer problem—the financial crisis of nearly all league clubs:

1. Club members will have to pay entrance fee to games on their home ground next season. (Annual general meetings at clubs will have something to say about this.)

2. Fines for players as a disciplinary measure will be entirely replaced by suspensions.

3. The national team will be the number one priority. (A much-used phrase, but nobody seems to get any further than saying it. There hasn't been a team or a national coach since August.)

4. Reorganisation of league championships. They are continually being reorganised. Latest suggestions—that Rosario and Santa Fe teams (Central, Newells Old Boys, Union, Colon) would be left out of the Metropolitan Championship, but more provincial clubs would come into the national championships.

5. Dates of league fixtures would not be altered to accommodate international club games. (At present this is done frequently and clubs also line up reserve teams while playing in various international tournaments during league championships.)

6. Auditors would check club books to make sure that only money earned by professional soccer is spent on it. (At present most clubs offer their players more money than they can ever afford to pay.)

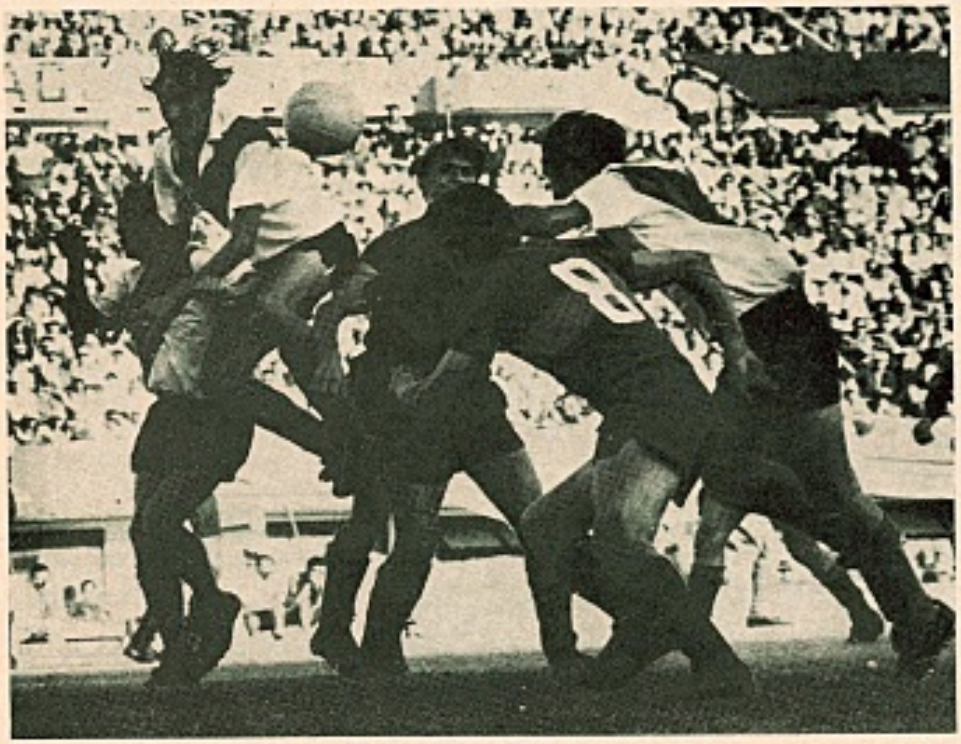
What the clubs didn't like a bit was that Oneto Gaona announced his intention of using "military methods" if he met opposition.

Opposite page: Penarol goalkeeper Mazurkiewicz blocks a Wolff header watched by rivals Machado da Silva and Forlan during the Super Cup game with Racing Club (0-0). Above: Angel Rojas (8) beats a blanket of white shirted Quilmes defenders to score for Boca (EW)

'a Boca fan ran onto the field and was...'

QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM ARGENTINA

A well-known Argentine soccer writer: "We should copy Brazilian soccer more. Argentina started to copy European styles, forgetting that the Europeans invented them to stop our superior ball control."



The leaping Rodriguez misses but River Plate's Marchetti (extreme right) beats Boca's Sune and Savoy (8) to equalise. Incident from the last Championship match which ended 2-2. (EW)

Four points separate first eight

THE Spanish League, Division One, reached its halfway stage almost casually, after an early period during which most clubs experienced problems, controversies and various kinds of crises, both mini and maxi. A brief review is revealing, for only four points separated the first eight clubs.

Atletico Madrid, so long in the shadow of Real, headed the table on goal average . . . surprisingly but deservedly. Their rebuilding was expected to take another year before results could really show. But innovations by new manager, Marcel Domingo, were helped by the return to brilliant form of Luis, Garate and especially outside-right, Ufarte.

They had their troubles when an important foreign signing was held up for weeks by the Paraguayan rumpus . . . and later, when a campaign was mounted against the same flamboyant and tough Argentine centre-half, Santos Ovejero. But Atletico Madrid have arrived . . . again.

Next in the table—the controversial Atletico Bilbao, super-tough, efficient and forever in the headlines because of manager Ronnie Allen's strange relations with the press. Their defence is the country's best, their forwards somewhat goal-shy, their failing is taking the more forceful English-style-Allen-introduced game too literally. Narrowly escaping relegation last season, Atletico Bilbao are once again in their traditional place, among Spain's "Big Four."

One point behind was Real Madrid . . . but more about that later.

Real Sociedad, who led the "spreading of power" group which ousted the great clubs in 1968-69, have maintained their progress. They are leaders of the "Correction Ratings" . . . sound, regular, sporting and entertaining. They were the only League club who didn't sign or release a player this season.

Surprising failures are last year's runners-up, Las Palmas, and Sabadell. The Canaries have fallen badly . . . four home defeats, suspensions, fines and internal unrest. They are desperate and demoralised at the moment, a mere shadow of the side they've been for three years. Sabadell, so solid in the previous campaign, are irregular and vulnerable in spite of their brilliant centre-half, Mario Pini, and a bevy of ex-big names. They have gained only one of 14 away points and show no sign of improving. Evidently representing Spain in the Fairs Cup—unsuccessfully—was too much for them.

Barcelona? You read about their troubles last month. There has been little change since, only deterioration. They have yet to win an away match and are only one point above the relegation zone. It's incomprehensible that such a talented team can achieve so little success.

Eloy of surprise team Seville. (Cutler)

The two surprise teams of the campaign so far, are Granada and Seville . . . both guided by foreign managers, and both within striking distance of the leaders. Granada, managed by Nestor Rossi, are unbeaten at home, and fully justify the position they hold. They have a fine defence, yet have scored only 14 goals in 15 games, six of them against Real Mallorca. Nevertheless their victories have been gained on merit and there's no reason why they should not be near the front in the final sprint.

Discipline

Max Merkel's disciplined Seville—he had them training from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. after their 5-1 defeat by Elche—are irregular. They beat Real Madrid and Barcelona at home and Atletico Bilbao and Valencia away, yet inexplicably lost to the bottom of the table clubs. They are temperamental and not the stuff of which champions are made . . . probably due to the unduly severe discipline.

When the season opened Valencia and Zaragoza were rebuilding, yet in spite of their troubles have surprised most people by their successes. Valencia sacked their manager, the likeable Josieto, after five matches (one win) . . . and reorganised their technical direction on the English, manager-team manager-coach lines. They've recovered extremely well and have slowly climbed the table. Since Salvador Artigas took over the management only three goals have been given away in ten games. Valencia should now finish in the top six.

Zaragoza are in the hands of the "saviour of lost causes," Hector Rial. He salvaged Pontevedra (1966-68) with his magic wand, and he's done the same for Zaragoza . . . in spite of being suspended for six weeks (for insulting a ref). The acquisition of Paraguayan international centre-forward Ocampos, has given them the power they badly needed. Mid-way will be their final resting place.

Newly promoted Celta de Vigo are holding their own . . . but Real Mallorca are balanced precariously on a tightrope with only eight points from 30.

The Island side started well, but were stricken by injuries and handicapped by lack of top-class technical direction and boardroom squabbles. After ten matches (two points) Sabino Barinaga became manager (see below). He made only one shrewd positional change, yet completely transformed the side which won two and drew two (away) of their next five games.

It's too early to forecast Real Mallorca's fate, although in Spanish League football six points in arrears takes a lot of recovering.

Pontevedra? They are doomed already.

And now the biggest story—or the biggest laugh—of the first four months . . . "the crisis" . . . "the fiasco" . . . "the disaster" . . . of Real Madrid. That's what 11 Madrid newspapers called it, and filled hundreds of column inches with their ramblings. But you judge for yourselves . . . from the facts.

Real's opening match was a titanic struggle with Barcelona which ended in a 3-all draw. Then followed six matches which left the champions unbeaten, leaders with 11 points, and this curious record:

	W	D	L	F	A
Home	0	3	0	8	7
Away	4	0	0	11	5

Sniping

But because supporters had not yet seen their team win (the first time was on November 2) and because the usually solid defence had given away nearly two goals a match, press sniping begun.

Then unfortunately followed the most amazing period in the club's history. Between October 21 and December 2 every match produced a serious injury. The casualty list reached unprecedented proportions. Betancourt and De Felipe underwent operations, Junquera and Fleitas surgery, Grande was out for several weeks, and for one or two games, Grosso, Piri, Gento, Zunzunegui, Biblioni, Benito. Eleven first team squad out of action, five of them hospitalised!

Not unnaturally Real Madrid fell from grace . . . and into a maelstrom of criticism. They lost to Seville and Valencia, drew with Atletico Madrid at home, were beaten 1-0 in the European Cup (1st Leg) by Standard Liege . . . and slumped to fourth place in the Championship table (P11,

NORMAN CUTLER from Spain

W6, L2, D4, F23, A15, Points 16).

And to make matters worse they were eliminated from the European Cup when two gift goals, one by goalkeeper Junquera, fresh from hospital, gave Standard a 2-3 victory in the 2nd Leg.

This was a blow the already critical Madrid press just could not take. Spain failing to qualify for the World Cup finals and now their favourite Real Madrid out of the European Cup.

"Madrid at Rock Bottom" . . . "Madrid Without Forwards" . . . "Madrid Sunk Without Trace" . . . "Madrid Seeek One Point, Lose Two" . . . "All Respect Lost for Madrid" . . "The End of Madrid as a Power" . . . and more, were the headlines.

Injuries

Amid all this uproar Miguel Munoz, Real's educated and gentlemanly long serving manager, calmly defended his team. "Our forwards have scored more goals than normal . . . the defence is not weak, simply experiencing a bad spell . . . the league is large, the injuries will pass."

And the most important and loyal statement of all . . "I'M QUITE CONTENTED AND CONFIDENT. I KNOW THE VALUE AND DEDICATION OF MY PLAYERS."

The defeat by Standard Liege halted the "slide." It had to, for should Real now fail to win the Spanish Championship, they would be out of the European Cup for the first time since its inauguration 15 years ago.

And so at half-way stage Real Madrid were second in the table, still handicapped with injuries . . . but with all sails fully set.

Was it a crisis . . . a fiasco . . . a disaster?

What do you think? I personally am quite sure that Spain's Champions of 1969-70 will be . . . REAL MADRID. And I'm not being clever. Ronnie Allen says "Anyone who says Real Madrid will not win the Championship, doesn't understand football."

* * *

The old adage that no Real Mallorca manager remains long enough to eat his Christmas dinner in Mallorca came true . . . for the tenth time. Sergio Rodriguez resigned after the club's eighth successive defeat.

Their new manager is Sabino Barinaga, former Atletico Madrid manager and one time Real Madrid goal-scoring forward. He arrived an hour before the game with Barcelona . . ordered a positional change during the first ten minutes from his seat in the stand, and Mallorca won 3-2. Since then the transformation has been unbelievable.

Barinaga was manager and architect of Nigeria's gallant bid to qualify for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

Recalled

And talking of managers. Second Division Real Betis sacked Miguel Gonzalez . . . because of a deputation from Supporters Clubs demanded his departure—and recalled, for the third time, Antonio Barrios. This was the 13th managerial change the Andalucian club have made in three years. Four managers couldn't save them from relegation from the 1st Division in 1967-68 and three failed to get them back last season. They are struggling near the bottom in the present campaign.

* * *

Sir Stanley Rous was furious when he heard how South American newspaper men had misquoted him as saying "England would not retain the World Cup." He won't be very pleased with Spanish comment.

'Madrid at rock bottom . . . Madrid without forwards . . . sunk without trace'

When he changed planes in Madrid on his way home from Lima he was met by the Spanish press. What Sir Stanley actually said was: "Spain's candidature would be considered at FIFA's July meeting in Mexico" . . . which was merely reiteration of the decision reached during the Tokio Assembly in 1964. The Spanish press presumed that it was actually confirmed.

Anyway justification for holding the World Cup in Spain is well founded in every respect.

The Spanish Federation's organisation is perfect . . . the hotel accommodation for the public is more than ample at the obvious venues . . . Spanish crowds are probably the best behaved in Europe . . . intercommunication between possible centres and other parts of the world are regular and efficient . . . at seven centres, at least, capacity crowds could be guaranteed whichever countries qualified . . . and adequate training centres in quiet retreats are available near all leading grounds.

Suitable venues are: Estadio Santiago Bernabeu (Real Madrid) 100,000 (approx.); Nou Camp (Barcelona) 100,000; Estadio Luis Casanova (Valencia) 65,000; Luis Sitjar (Real Mallorca), Estadio San Mames (Atletico Bilbao) and Sanches Pizjuan (Seville) all with guaranteed capacity of 50,000. All these are present figures. The Spanish Government, I understand, would subsidise clubs in enlarging grounds and facilities where necessary.

The Barcelona side which has disappointed so far this season. Back row: left to right: Sadurni, Franch, Gallego, Eladio, Torres, Zabalza. Front row: Alfonseda, Marcial, Zaldua, Garcia Cartany, Pujol. (Cutler)

European League

Review by

ROGER MACDONALD

CAGLIARI LOSE AT PALERMO

CAGLIARI a fence in front, in spite of a sensational first defeat of the season, 1-0 at bottom-placed but rapidly improving Palermo. The honour fell to Gaetano Troja in the 40th minute, much to the delight of 40,000 spectators. Pursuing determinedly, Inter-Milan, Juventus and Fiorentina, level on points and far from finished.

Behind Cagliari, as always, Luigi Riva, the prodigious star capable, almost without exception, of scoring a winning goal. After an absence of two weeks—due to a leg injury received against East Germany in the World Cup-tie, and a visit to a dentist to have two eye-teeth out—Riva returned to score the winner against Bologna with a great shot in the 37th minute. But in all it was a day of mixed fortunes for him, because in the second half he had his name taken by the formidable disciplinarian Concetto Lo Bello for protesting too vehemently and then, six minutes from time, all but splintered the bar with a penalty kick.

Cagliari were helped inadvertently by a fixture list that left their four nearest challengers meeting each other. The biggest crowd of the day, just over 70,000, saw Juventus dispose of the European champions, AC Milan, 2-0 at San Siro. Both goals came late in the second half, the first from Vieri after 68 minutes, the second by Zigoni (from a superb pass by Haller) ten minutes later. The match was a violent one from start to finish and two players, one of them Nestor Combin, the other Juventus centre-half Morini, were sent off for repeated fouling.

Meanwhile Fiorentina won at home by the same score against Inter-Milan, jumping ahead of them into second place. The 48,000 crowd were in a frenzy of excitement after a quarter of an hour, for Fiorentina were already two up through Rizzo and Chiarugi. But Inter pulled themselves together and with Fiorentina content to hang on to their lead, the game ended tamely.

Lanerossi Vicenza, with four wins in six matches, would have been one of Cagliari's closest pursuers but for single-goal defeats by Torino and Brescia. But they relied a little too heavily on the league's leading scorer, the fast and dangerous Alessandro Vitali, and on Cinesinho—sent off early on against Brescia.

AC Milan continued to show erratic form, winning at Torino where Lanerossi later could not, and beating the reigning champions Fiorentina 4-2 in a sensational match. The first three goals all came from penalty kicks—Sormani converted two for AC Milan, in the third and 41st minutes, then Maraschi scored from the spot for Fiorentina on the stroke of half-time. When Amarildo headed Fiorentina's equaliser ten minutes after the interval, it looked as though the champions would win. But Milan weathered the storm and came back magnificently to score twice in six minutes. Rognoni hit a shot on the turn that went in like a bullet, and Maldera came thundering in for a free-kick that discovered a tiny gap in Fiorentina's wall. A fine win for AC Milan, playing without three of their best footballers — Rivera, Lodetti and Schnellinger.

Bari stopped Cagliari by playing nine men in defence and two "attackers" on Riva himself. There was another goalless draw between Napoli and Inter-Milan, a match which saw the first appearance of Kurt Hamrin since his transfer to Naples. He played well with Altafini, providing the pass from which Altafini hit the bar with a brilliant shot.

Juventus, meanwhile, beat Lazio 2-1, but the victory was easier than the score suggests. Full-back Salvadore and outside-right Leonardi (with a penalty) gave Juventus a comfortable lead they held almost until the end. The following Sunday Juventus played very well indeed to win 3-0 away to Roma, who really have not fulfilled any of the prognostications of the famous Helenio Herrera. Anastasi had his best game for months, opening the scoring in the 15th minute; Zigoni got the second just before half-time, and Haller the third one minute from the end.

With Inter held by Verona and Fiorentina scraping home at Brescia, the big clash came in Sardinia, with Cagliari taking on AC Milan. Riva scored with a great shot in the sixth minute, but Milan seemed quite unruffled and had more of the play. Rivera received *France Football*'s Golden Ball award as European Footballer of the Year before the kick-off, and lived up to it with a golden pass in the 72nd minute which Prati converted into a goal. The only blemish on Rivera's performance was a booking (along with Lodetti) for rough play. I felt Milan would have won if Rosato had not gone off with a leg injury just before half-time, for the substitute, Fogli, never really got into the match.

Cagliari kept their clear lead by beating Torino 2-0, goals from Gori and, inevitably, Riva, one in each half. Fiorentina easily beat Palermo, but Juventus had to struggle a bit for their sixth successive win, a 26th-minute goal by Leonardi against Bari being the only score. Carlo Fachin got Lanerossi's 80th-minute winner against AC Milan, and Inter had Facchetti to thank for their 3-2 win over Sampdoria. He scored twice, in the 21st and 79th minutes, and had an outstanding match.

Cagliari followed up their league success with a victory over the Italian Cup-holders, AS Roma, in the away leg of the quarter-finals. They won 1-0, and if you were asked to guess who got the winning goal (after 25 minutes) I am sure you would say . . . Riva. No wonder they put a few bob on the rates to pay his wages.

GREECE

SOMETIMES the scoreline lies. It certainly did when the league leaders, Panathinaikos, beat Patras, one of the bottom clubs, 3-0. Until the last ten minutes there was no score, with Patras, lacking only finish, the better of the teams. But in those remaining minutes the burly Panathinaikos centre-forward Antoniadis got three goals—three in six minutes in fact—to make the result a mockery.

This was far from the first time this season that Panathinaikos had teased their supporters. They were a goal down at home to Heraklis, but got four in the second half —through Athanassapoulos (58 minutes), Demitriou (67) and two from Antoniadis (78 and 80) in a remarkable turnabout.

Olympiakos have also been startlingly erratic. When they beat Panahaiki 4-2 Yutsos got all four goals with an outstanding individual performance, but it took a Vaassiliou penalty to dispose of lowly Pierikos. The meeting between the leading sides was an anti-climax, for the 27,000 crammed into Panathinaikos's stadium had little to enthuse about. Panathinaikos, with a four-point lead (remember three for a win in Greece and one for finishing a match!) played for a draw, and Olympiakos, lacking Sideris and Botinos, could do nothing about it. But all the tension had to

MIGUEL MUNOZ, manager of Real Madrid.

come to the surface, and after a series of clashes Agaan of Olympiakos and Demitriou were both sent off.

BULGARIA

AT halfway house, Levski hold a four-point lead in the first division—a lead they will keep until March when the snow melts away. But Levski were more than glad to draw their last match of the autumn championship, away to GSKA Slavia, a team near the top of the table and lacking only in experience.

GSKA scored first, a shot from centre-forward Grigorov in the 24th minute, and Levski were still behind at half-time. But in the 56th minute they forced a corner on the left and Asparoukhoe climbed up an invisible ladder to head an unstoppable goal.

CSKA, split by an internal crisis (the controversial dismissal of their coach Ormandjiev and the unpopular appointment of Manolov), fell further behind by losing at Vratza against the university side, Akademik. Though in the danger zone, Akademik had made a rapid and recent improvement; they were soon ahead against CSKA, Lubenov scoring after only six minutes. Thereafter on the snowbound pitch we had Akademik's international defenders, Dimitrov and Voutzov, firmly marking CSKA's international forwards, Jekov and Yakimov, who could not break through.

TURKEY

ANOTHER defeat for Turkey's European Cup representatives, Galatasaray, this time by the unbeaten league leaders, Altay of Izmir. Altay, conceding only three goals in their first 13 matches, rely heavily on an iron-clad defence. They scored only once against Galatasaray, through Necdet in the 43rd minute, but it was enough to win the game and keep them two points clear of Fenerbahce.

Eskisehirspor played a remarkable game against the other Izmir club, Goztepe. They were two goals down at half-time, but an inspired performance by their captain, Fethi, produced a goal, an equaliser, then three more for a 5-2 victory.

SPAIN

REAL MADRID remain in danger of going out of the European Cup for the first time since the competition began 14 years ago, as the two Atleticos, Bilbao and Madrid, apparently dispute the title.

Atletico Madrid took a three-point lead at the top of the table by beating Ronnie Allen's Basques, a splendid match seen by 50,000 at Manzanares and millions more on their television screens. Madrid, practising several clever little moves devised by their manager, Marcel Domingo, turned two of them into goals in the first 20 minutes—the first from Ufarte, the second by Garate.

Madrid's rhythm, at this stage, threatened a rout, but there is backbone in Bilbao these days, and they held on indefatigably. Zubiaga, Bilbao's resident jack-in-the-box, popped up just before half-time to reduce the deficit, and this goal changed the pattern of the match. Bilbao dominated the second half, and if they had possessed one forward who could finish, must have won comfortably. But Madrid survived, very glad indeed to hear the final whistle.

Atletico Madrid's three-point lead, however, vanished as quickly as it had come—defeats by Real Sociedad away and lowly Sabadell at home coming as a rude awakening. Bilbao, though, dropped a point in Majorca, while Madrid got the goal they needed to beat Seville, through Adelardo five minutes from time. But the lead changed hands yet again when Atletico Madrid could only draw in Las Palmas, leaving Atletico Bilbao top on goal average.

For Real, three defeats contrast dismally with last season's long unbeaten record that endured until the last match. In recent weeks both Zaragoza (2-0) and Barcelona (1-0) inflicted their second and third reverses of the season. But the Barca-Real match was as mediocre as the opposite fixture (which ended in a 3-3 draw) had been brilliant. In that opening match Barcelona had led 2-0, yet lost the lead, but this time they made no mistake. A goal from a corner by the international player, Gallego, put paid to Real. It is still far from impossible for them to keep the championship, but they are not playing like champions.

RUMANIA

EVEN when it was freezing in Sofia, you could walk around Bucharest in your shirtsleeves, so it seemed rather

● Continued overleaf

absurd to call a halt to the championship in brilliant sunshine.

The autumn leaders, Rapid Bucharest, gained their advantage by beating their nearest challengers, Dynamo Bucharest, 2-0; although Rapid's lead shrunk to a single point when they ended the first half of the season with a 3-1 defeat at Dynamo Bacau, while Dynamo Bucharest were easily accounting for Mures. The spring holds promise of a fascinating contest: Rapid, excellently organised with a formidable defence; Dynamo, exciting but erratic, providing five or six players for the World Cup side.

USSR

THERE are evidently no penalties for fielding weak teams in Soviet league matches, for when Dynamo Kiev met Dynamo Tibilissi home and away in the final fixtures, not one first-team player turned out.

As Spartak were already assured of the title, Kiev did not mind squandering three points out of a possible four. The results were Kiev Reserves 2, Tibilissi Reserves 2, and Tibilissi Reserves 2, Kiev Reserves 0—and after the second game even the disciplined Russian crowd booed both sides off the field.

NETHERLANDS

THE weather has been at its worst in Holland, with many matches hit by freezing temperatures that made grounds unplayable, and in some weeks the whole league programme postponed.

LUCIANO CHIARUGI.

Ajax did manage to get their rearranged fixture with their nearest challengers, Feijenoord, out of the way, and the 1-1 draw left them two points clear at the top of the table.

During the lull Barcelona made a tentative approach to Ajax for the transfer of Johann Cruyff; but Ajax's president, Jaap Van Praag, pointed out that as Cruyff was under contract until the summer of 1971, any discussions were rather premature.

PORTUGAL

BENFICA, reviving rapidly, moved back into second place, but have left themselves a lot to do to catch an energetic and purposeful Sporting. Benfica did well to win at the fourth-placed side, Varzim, a header from Artur Jorge from a corner in the 21st minute, giving them the points.

Afterwards both sides missed several chances, but Benfica, showing the greater originality, deserved their victory. They followed it up with a 3-0 win over Leixoes, two goals from Torres and one from Eusebio—at last back to his most exciting form.

Sporting, though, have been running up some good scores—Nelson getting two goals in a 3-1 win at Braga and another in the 4-1 home success against Leixoes. Anything Benfica can do, Sporting can do better.

BELGIUM

LA GANTOISE, nearest challengers to Standard, attracted a capacity crowd of 25,000 for their home game with the league leaders. But the match itself did not live up to expectations.

Gantoise had the better of the first half, forcing six corners to Standard's none, but towards the end they ran out of steam. Standard, finishing strongly, were nevertheless content with a goalless draw that kept them two points in front. Especially as they had to play with Takac off-colour and Van Moer on the injury list.

Van Himst returned to form when Anderlecht ran up five goals against Beveren, but they have little chance of catching the leaders. Anderlecht continue to emphasise mobility, and three of their goals came from defenders, one from Heylens, two from Sweden's Thomas Nordahl. But it will take more than mobility to restore Anderlecht's fortunes.

YUGOSLAVIA

AFTER leading for most of the season, Red Star Belgrade lost the lead in the last match before the winter break—and humiliatingly. Zeljeznicar beat them 4-1 in front of their own supporters to take a one-point advantage back to Sarajevo. Red Star are left brooding until March 8 over what went wrong.

AUSTRIA

THE championship fizzled out at the winter break, for the two leading clubs, Austria of Vienna and Wiener Sportklub, both had their matches cancelled in rapidly deteriorating conditions. The two bottom clubs, Dornbirn and Eisenstadt, did manage to eke out a 1-1 in a temperature at least ten degrees below zero: but with a four-point gap above them it looks a cheerless new year.

A LOOK AT ITALY

● *Continued from page 7*

Take the national team and you see the same sort of sensibility and planning. This season's fixture list made splendid provision for the Italian national squad to come together prior to its games against East Germany and Wales. There is little of the nonsense that accompanies club and national trainers vying for the services of their stars: a point forcibly driven home when a powerful Italian team faced a Welsh XI that was a comic parody of its full-strength choice.

Someone (I forget whom) once wrote that there are Italian players who never have a constructive thought throughout the whole game. He exaggerated—backwards. There are Italian players who never have a constructive thought all season and a few (a diminishing breed) who never know the meaning of the word.

The situation has improved markedly in the last two or three years, as the Italian debacle in the last World Cup was quickly succeeded by the abysmal showing put up by Inter in their European Cup Final against Celtic. But one cannot escape the conclusion that the wealth behind the game, together with the emotive language used in some of the mass media act as a barrier to further advancement.

After the 1966 World Cup there was much derision of Italian footballers, both in the press and in the national parliament—accusations that footballers were too well paid, too fond of publicity, too cossetted and spoilt. Yet as another World Cup approaches, one can see all too clearly many of the same symptons. Even the make-weight players in Italian first division teams receive the sort of money that is earned by only a handful of British stars, and although one can turn to statistics in turn and point out that Italian footballers play the game in a country where sport is more important to so many people than political involvement and artistic interest, it seems more than merely disappointing that a country which has produced so many great players through the last few decades, should find its sport subjected to financial and emotional criteria.

Perhaps things will look up. Perhaps the cool influence of trainers such as Nereo Rocco and Manlio Scopigno and players such as Facchetti, Mazzola, Rivera and the rest will come out on top. For these are the people who can change the style of the game from within, who can increasingly put back some of the genuine prestige that it deserves.

And I must confess that had I the money I would fly to Italy every Sunday to catch a league game. For when it is played well, the Italian brand of football can be more than technically effective. It can also be fascinating and exciting to watch.

STATE OF MIND

★

GREGORY TESSER interview with GEOFF HURST

GEOFF HURST certainly has his critics: "Overrated," they say. Others have said he possesses more brawn than brain. These critics have, however, surely missed the point. Hurst is certainly not the world's most skilful player, but on the other hand there are not many players in the game today who are able to snap up half-chances with the consistent regularity of the 28-year-old Hurst.

This season Geoff has received more than his fair share of criticism. West Ham have been struggling, and this worrying state of affairs has without any doubt affected his form. But even so he is still able to bang in goals that a great many players would be nowhere near to. His critics should also remember that he has been dogged almost continually by a niggling back injury for much of the season, but this has not stopped Hurst scoring vital goals in his own incomparable style.

This term, what with the Hammers struggling to find any form, and Geoff unable to settle down, life has not been at all easy for the placid Hurst.

I asked Geoff if he found that the dismal form shown by his club had begun to hamper his own performances: "The form of one's own team must always to a certain extent influence one's own personal performances, and I have continually found this the case this season. If you are playing in a side that is on the crest of a wave, things always seem that much brighter. A really courageous player learns to play well both through thick and thin.

DISREPUTE

"Of course the game is definitely getting tougher. Nowadays certain players are instructed to "kick" key men out of the game. This sort of cut-throat tactic can only bring the game into more disrepute. However, I am one of the lucky ones. I have learnt over the years that it is fatal to retaliate.

"Although on many occasions I become utterly sick and tired of being hacked to pieces I have learnt to live with it. Now I hardly ever find that robust marking upsets me. You only get yourself into more trouble if you retaliate."

TENSION

In many cases leading football stars, especially forwards, are full of pent-up tension between important matches. This is not the case with Hurst.

"I find it comparatively easy to relax after a match. Basically I think if you want to relax you will. It is all a state of mind."

Players of the class of Hurst must expect long periods away from their wife and family. Had Mrs. Hurst always accepted this situation? "Obviously my wife will miss me if I am lucky enough to go to Mexico for the World Cup finals. I am sure she has always been aware of the fact that this sort of lengthy period away from home is liable to occur in my job.

"With my children the situation is entirely different. Young children don't really understand what is going on, and anyway on the whole children are probably quicker to adjust to unusual situations than adults.

"Of course many wives moan considerably when their footballing husbands go on a long, arduous tour abroad, but I have been lucky in this respect. My wife has at all times been very level-headed, and shown a complete understanding of the situation."

DISORDERS

Much has been written in the national Press of the difficulties the English squad will encounter in Mexico next summer. Apart from the altitude problem, the English players will also have to conquer the dangers of stomach disorders caused by the radical change of diet. However, the relaxed Hurst is not as worried as some of his colleagues.

"When we were in Mexico last summer," he told me, "I soon became aware of the tremendous difference in both the climate and altitude. The main problem for me was the almost frightening lack of air. This not only restricted my freedom to run for a 50-50 ball, but also made my legs feel like jelly at the final whistle. But basically I found it much easier to acclimatise than I thought possible.

"Last summer's tour was extremely encouraging for us, especially our fine performances in Mexico."

The England World Cup contenders I have spoken to during recent weeks have been unanimous in their verdict that Brazil will be the greatest threat to the holders' efforts in retaining the world title. Geoff Hurst is no exception to this view.

"Brazil must obviously be our main challengers, and Mexico will certainly be no pushovers. Brazil have two vital attributes —strength in depth and supreme confidence. Although they defeated us 2-1 last summer, I am still confident we can reverse the score in Mexico."

CAPTURED

At the present time the game, both at home and abroad, is singularly lacking in characters. I asked Geoff if any European player had captured his imagination this season. "Undoubtedly one of the European stars to watch for in the 1970's is young Johann Cruyff of Ajax Amsterdam. He is the nearest I have seen to George Best for a long, long time."

A troublesome back injury; his club's complete loss of form and purpose; in and out form for his country. These handicaps would unquestionably depress even the most hardened professional, but not the likeable Hurst. Through good days and bad the phlegmatic Geoff Hurst keeps on scoring goals. And, after all, that is what football is all about!

GEOFF HURST—still banging in the goals despite in-out form with club and country. (McL)

SOCCERTISTICS

Edited by MICHAEL CHANDLER

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

W/E NOVEMBER 30

Russian: (Midweek) Dynamo Kiev 2, Dynamos Tbilisi 2; Dynamo Tbilisi 2, Dynamo Kiev 0.

Switzerland: Basel 5, Biel 1; Lugano 2, Lausanne 2; Servette 0, Fribourg 1; Winterthur 1, Grasshoppers 0; Young Boys 2, St. Gallen 0; Zurich 3, Wettingen 2.

Northern Ireland: Ards 1, Distillery 0; Crusaders 4, Glenavon 1; Glentoran 2, Coleraine 1; Linfield 1, Ballymena 0; Portadown 1, Cliftonville 0.

Portugal: Academica 3, Sporting 0; Belenenses 1, Braga 0; CUF 2, Boavista 1; Porto 5, Leixoes 1; Varzim 1, Barreirense 2; Guimaraes 2, Setubal 1; Benfica 6, Uniao de Tomar 0.

West Germany: Koln 0, Borussia Monchengladbach 1; Hannover 96 0, Bayern Munchen 1; Hertha BSC 3, Kaiserslautern 0; Rotweiss Essen 1, Rotweiss Oberhausen 0; VfB Stuttgart 4, Eintracht Frankfurt 0; TSV 1860 Munchen 1, Eintract Brunswick 0; MSV Duisberg 1, Werder Bremen 1; Alemannia Aachen 3, Borussia Dortmund 1; Hamburger SV 1, Schalke 04 1.

Austria: Wacker Insbruck 1, Austria Wien 2; Rapid 1, Admira 1; Voest Linz 0, Sturm Graz 2; Vienna 0, Wattens 1; Eisenstadt 1, Austria Salzburg 2; Sportclub 0, Wacker Wien 1; Grazer AK 0, Linz ASK 0; Austria Klagenfurt 4, Dorbirn 1.

Turkey: Vefa 0, Samsunspor 1; Eskisehirspor 2, Demirspor 0; PTT 1, Besiktas 0; Altinordu 1, Istanbulspor 0; Fenerbahce 1, Ankaragucu 0; Genclerbirligi 0, Galatasaray 3.

Belgium: Anderlecht 3, Ostende 0; Racing White 1, Beerschot 0; Standard Liege 2, Union St. Gilloise 0; FC Bruges 4, Waregem 0; SC Charleroi 4, St. Trond 3; Beveren-Waas 1, La Gantoise 2.

Italy: Bari 1, Palermo 0; Bologna 1, Vicenza 1; Inter-Milan 3, Lazio 0; Juventus 2, Fiorentina 0; Napoli 0, Brescia 0; Roma 0, Torino 0; Sampdoria 1, AC Milan 1; Verona 1, Cagliari 1.

France: Nantes 1, Nimes 0; Ajaccio 1, Rouen 0; Angouleme 4, Sochaux 0; Marseille 3, Bastia 3; Metz 4, Lyon 0; Strasbourg 4, Angers 1; Red Star Paris 0, Sedan / RCP 2; Rennes 0, Bordeaux 0; St. Etienne 1, Valenciennes 0.

Holland: Go Ahead 1, GVAV 1; MVV 2, Sparta 1; ADO 0, NEC 0; SVV 0, Ajax 6; Telstar 0, AZ '67 3; DWS 1, Haarlem 1; DWS 1, Twente 1; Feijenoord 1, PSV 0.

Bulgaria: CSJ Slavia 1, Tchernomorez 1; Spartak 2, Dunav 1; Botev 1, Akademik 1; Marek 1, Etar 0; Maritza 1, Beroe 0; CSKA 6, Lokomotiv 1; Tchernomorez 1, Levski-Spartak 1; Trakia 2, Krakra 1.

Yugoslavia: OFK Belgrade 5, Zeleznicar 0; Celik 0, Dinamo 0; Olimpija 3, Vojvodina 2; Zagreb 2, Sloboda 0; Bor 5, Vardar 0; Sarajevo 1, Radnicki Kra. 0; Red Star 2, Radnicki Nis 0; Maribor 0, Partizan 0; Velez 0, Hajduk 2.

Luxembourg: Aris Bonneweg 4, Spora Luxembourg 2; Tetingen 3, Union Luxembourg 2; US Dudelingen 3, Bad Mondorf 2; Avenir Beggen 2, Red Boys Differdingen 2; Niedercorn 0, Stade Dudelingen 2; Jeunesse Esch 1, Rumelingen 1.

Spain: Zaragossa 1, Las Palmas 2; Elche 1, Mallorca 1; Coruna 2, Valencia 1; Atletico Bilbao 0, Sevilla 1; Real Sociedad 2, Sabadell 1; Barcelona 1, Granada 0; Real Madrid 3, Celta Vigo 1; Pontevedra 1, Atletico Madrid 2.

Eire: Finn Harps 2, Shamrock Rovers 2; Drumcondra 3, Athlone Town 1; Waterford 1, Shelbourne 1; St. Patrick's Athletic 0, Sligo 1; Drogheda 1, Bohemians 1; Limerick 1, Dundalk 1; Cork Hibernians 1, Cork Celtic 1.

Rumania: Steaua 8, Dinamo Bacau 0; Jiul 2, Crisul 1; Rapid 1, Farul 0; CFR Cluj 0, Universitatea Craiova 0; Politehnica 3, Dinamo Bucharest 0; ASA Tirgu-Mures 0, Universitatea Cluj 0; Arges 3, Petrolul 0; Steagul rosu 1, UT Arad 0. (Midweek): Petrolul 2, Crisul 1; Dinamo Bucharest 3, CFR Cluj 1; UT Arad 3, Arges 0; Dinamo Bacau 1, Jiul 1; Universitatea Cluj 0, Rapid 0; Steagul rosu 3, Universitatea Craiova 0; Politehnica 4, ASA Tirgu-Mures 1.

Greece: Aigaleo 3, Vyzas 0; OF Iraklion 1, Proodeftiki 0; Ethnikos 0, Panathinaikos 1; Panachaiki 0, AEK 2; Iraklis 1, Olympiakos Piraus 1; Panionios 1, Panseraikos 0; Olympiakos Wolos 0, PAOK 0; Pierikos 2, Kavala 0; Olympiakos Nikosia 0, Aris 2. (Midweek): PAOK 1, Panachaiki 1; Olympiakos Piraus 2, Kavala 1; AEK 1, Aris 0; Panionios 2, Ethnikos 0.

Poland: Ruch Chorzow 3, Katowice 0; Polonia 3, Legia 2; Cracovia 1, Szombierki 1; Gwardia 0, Zaglebie Sosnowiec 2; Zaglebie Walbrzych 1, Wisla 1; Pogon 0, Stal 0; Gornik 1, Odra 0.

W/E DECEMBER 7

Poland: Odra 0, Zaglebie Walbrzych 0; Stal 2, Gornik 4; Szombierki 2, Pogon 1; Wisla 0, Polonia 1; Zaglebie Sosnowiec 0; Cracovia 0; Katowice 1; Gwardia 0; Legia 3, Ruch 0.

Austria: Wattens 1, Rapid 2; Linz ASK 2, Austria Klagenfurt 2; Admira 3, Grazer AK 0; Sturm Graz 1, Wiener Sportklub 1; Dornbirn 1, Eisenstadt 1; Austria Salzburg 2, Voest 0.

Holland: Twente 1, Feijenoord 1; DOS 2, GVAV 0; Sparta 3, Go Ahead 0; NEC 0, MVV 0; Ajax 2, ADO 1; AZ '67 1, SVV 0; Haarlem 1, Telstar 1; Holland Sport 3, DWS 0; PSV 3, NAC 1.

France: Lion 2, Red Star Paris 0; Sochaux 2, Strasbourg 0; Nimes 2, Rennes 3; Rouen 0, St. Etienne 2; Sedan/RCP 0, Bastia 2; Angers 2, Marseille 1; Bordeaux 5, Angouleme 1; Valenciennes 2, Nantes 1; Ajaccio 0, Metz 0.

Belgium: Crosing 3, Standard Liege 1; Beerschot 3, FC Bruges 0; FC Liege 0, SC Charleroi 1; La Gantoise 1, Racing White 0; Ostende 0, Beveren 0; Beringen 2, Anderlecht 2; Waregem 1, Lierse SK 4; Union St. Gilloise 3, St. Trond 1.

Northern Ireland: Ballymena 3, Derry 4; Bangor 3, Crusaders 4; Cliftonville 1, Linfield 5; Coleraine 2, Portadown 3; Distillery 0, Glentoran 5; Glenavon 0, Ards 2.

West Germany: Rotweiss Oberhausen 0, Schalke 04 3; Eintracht Brunswick 3, Alemannia Aachen 0; Borussia Dortmund 0, Hertha BSC 0; Borussia Monchengladbach 5, Hannover 96 0; Bayern Munchen 2, Hamburger SV 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Koln 0; Werder Bremen 1, TSV 1860 Munchen 1; Rotweiss Essen 0, MSV Duisberg 0; Kaiserslautern 3, VfB Stuttgart 2.

Spain: Mallorca 1, Real Madrid 3; Valencia 2, Pontevedra 0; Celta Vigo 2, Coruna 2; Zaragossa 2, Barcelona 1; Sabadell 1, Las Palmas 0; Granada 0, Elche 0; Sevilla 1, Real Sociedad 1; Atletico Madrid 2, Atletico Bilbao 1.

Yugoslavia: Dinamo 2, Red Star 0; Zeleznnicar 4, Celik 0; Velez 3, Bor 0; Sloboda 1, Sarajevo 1; Vardar 1, OFK Belgrade 0; Radnicki Kra. 1, Olimpija 0; Partizan 2, Zagreb 0; Radnicki Nis 1, Maribor 1.

Hungary: Honved 5, Ferencvaros 2; Csepel 1, Ujpest Dozsa

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Santarini—one of the fine young players under Helenio Herrera's care with Roma. (LPA)

1; MTK 0, Dunaujvaros 0; Diosgyor 3, Pecs 3; Eger 1, Komlo 1; Tatabanya 2, Szombathely 0; Raba ETO Gyor 1, Egyetertes 1; Vasas 1, Salgotarjan 0.

Italy: Cagliari 1, Bologna 0; Fiorentina 2, Inter-Milan 0; Vicenza 3, Roma 0; Lazio 0, Napoli 2; AC Milan 0, Juventus 2; Palermo 3, Sampdoria 0; Torino 1, Brescia 0; Verona 4, Bari 1.

Switzerland: Bellinzona 3, Young Boys 2; Biel 0, Servette 2; Fribourg 2, Lugano 1; Grasshoppers 2, Basel 0; Lausanne 2, La Chaux-de-Fonds 0; Wettingen 1, Winterthur 1.

Rumania: Universitatea Craiova 2, Arges 2; Farul 4, CFR Cluj 2; Crisul 2, Steaua 1; UT Arad 4, Politehnica 2; Dinamo Bacau 3, Rapid 1; Petrolul 2, Steagul rosu 0; Dinamo Bucharest 3, ASA Tirgu-Mures 1; Universitatea Cluj 4, Jiul 1. (Midweek): Rapid 1, Petrolul 0; Arges 2, Dinamo Bucharest 1; Universitatea Craiova 1, Steaua 0.

Turkey (Midweek): Fenerbache 2, Altinordu 0; Demirspor 0, Galatasaray 0; Altay 2, Instanbulspor 1; Goztepe 0, Vefa 0; Besiktas 0, Samsun 0; Bursa 2, PTT 0; Sekisehir 1, Ankaragucu 1; Genclerbirligi 1, Mersin Idman Yurdu 2.

Eire: Dundalk 6, Waterford 1; Shamrock Rovers 2, Cork Hibernians 2; Cork Celtic 2, St. Patrick's Athletic 1; Bohemians 1, Limerick 4; Sligo Rovers 4, Drumcondra 1; Athlone Town 2, Drogheda 1; Shelbourne 2, Finn Harps 1.

W/E DECEMBER 14

Switzerland: Basel 6, Wettingen 2; Fribourg 0, Biel 1; Lugano 5, La Chaux-de-Fonds 2; Servette 1, Grasshoppers 1; Winterthur 4, St. Gallen 0; Young Boys 3, Lausanne 3; Zurich 3, Bellinzona 0.

West Germany: Alemannia Aachen 0, Werder Bremen 0; Hertha BSC 2, Eintracht Brunswick 0; TSV 1860 Munchen 2, MSV Duisberg 2; Rotweiss Oberhausen 3, Bayern Munchen 3; Hanover 96 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 1; VfB Stuttgart 2, Borussia Dortmund 1; Koln 6, Kaiserslautern 1; Schalke 04 5, Rotweiss Essen 3; Hamburger SV 1, Borussia Monchengladbach 3.

Italy: Bologna 1, Napoli 2; Brescia 0, Juventus 1; Inter-Milan 1, Bari 0; Fiorentina 2, Roma 2; Lazio 0, Verona 1; Palermo 1, Cagliari 0; Sampdoria 0, Vicenza 1; Torino 0, AC Milan 1. (Midweek)—AC Milan 0, Bologna 0.

Portugal: Sporting 3, CUF 0; Porto 0, Varzim 1; Barreirense 2, Benfica 2; Setubal 4, Belenenses 0; Braga 1, Academica 1; Leixoes 6, Boavista 2; Uniao de Tomar 1, Guimaraes 2.

France: Bordeaux 2, Marseille 2; Nimes 5, Lyon 2; Valenciennes 2, Strasbourg 0; Ajaccio 4, Rennes 2; Angers 1, Sedan/RCP 3; Sochaux 2, Bastia 1.

Belgium: Anderlecht 3, La Gantoise 1; Racing White 0, FC Liege 0; Standard Liege 2, Waregem 0; Lierse SK 2, Ostende 0; St. Trond 3, Beerschot 0; SC Charleroi 6, Crossing 0; Beveren-Waas 2, Beringen 1.

Yugoslavia: Vojvodina 2, Radnicki Kra 1; Red Star 1, Zeleznicar 4; Zagreb 2, Radnicki Nis 1; OFK Belgrade 4, Velez 2; Sarajevo 0, Partizan 0; Olimpija 4, Sloboda 2; Maribor 0, Dinamo 0; Celik 1, Vardar 1; Bor 1, Hajduk 1. (The match between Hajduk and Vojvodina which finished 1-2 earlier in the season has been awarded to Hajduk 3-0.)

Austria: (Midweek) — Austria Wien 4, Vienna 1.

Holland: (Midweek) — AZ'67 Alkmaar 1, Feijenoord 1.

Eire: Cork Hibernians 3, Shelbourne 0; Drumcondra 2, Cork Celtic 2; Athlone Town 3, Bohemians 2; Finn Harps 6, Dundalk 2; Drogheda 2, Sligo 2; Limerick 1, Waterford 0; St. Patrick's 2, Shamrock Rovers 3.

Spain: Elche 1, Zaragossa 1; Coruna 1, Mallorca 1; Atletico Bilbao 0, Valencia 0; Sabadell 2, Sevilla 1; Real Sociedad 2, Atletico Madrid 1; Real Madrid 2, Granada 0; Pontevedra 0, Celta Vigo 2; Las Palmas 1, Barcelona 0.

Turkey: Altay 1, Buraspor 0; Demirspor 2, Vefa 1; Besiktas 3, Eskisehir 1; Galatasaray 1, Fenerbahce 0; PTT 0, Istanbulspor 0; Altinordu 0, Genclerbirligi 0; Samsun 2, Ankaragucu 0; Mersin I. Yurdu 2, Goztepe 2.

Northern Ireland: Ards 4, Derry 0; Coleraine 6, Distillery 1; Crusaders 1, Ballymena 1; Glentoran 2, Cliftonville 0; Linfield 1, Glenavon 1; Portadown 2, Bangor 0.

W/E DECEMBER 21

Eire: Dundalk 1, Cork Hibernians 4; Shamrock Rovers 0, Drumcondra 0; Sligo Rovers 2, Bohemians 1; Shelbourne 3, St. Patrick's Athletic 1; Limerick 6, Athlone Town 1; Cork Celtic 3, Drogheda 1; Waterford 3, Finn Harps 2.

West Germany: Borussia Monchengladbach 6, Rotweiss Oberhausen 1; Kaiserlautern 5, Hannover 96 2; Broussia Dortmund 1, Koln 0; Rotweiss Essen 3, TSV 1860 Munchen 0; Werder Bremen 1, Hertha BSC 0; Eintracht Brunswick 1, VfB Stuttgart 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Hamburger SV 2; MSV Duisberg 2, Alemannia Achen 1.

France: Bastia 2, Bordeaux 2; Lyon 2, Angers 1; Nantes 0, Rouen 2; Rennes 1, St. Etienne 0; Angouleme 2, Ajaccio 1; Marseille 3, Valenciennes 1; Red Star Paris 3, Nimes 0.

Portugal: Leixoes 0, Varzim 1; Benfica 2, Porto 0; Guimaraes 3, Barreirense 0; Belenenses 2, Uniao de Tomar 1; Academica 0, Setubal 3; CUF 3, Braga 1; Boavista 0, Sporting 0.

Spain: Mallorca 3, Pontevedra 0; Celta Vigo 0, Atletico Bilbao 2; Real Zaragossa 2, Real Madrid 0; Atletico Madrid 1, Sabadell 0; Barcelona 1, Elche 1; Granada 2, Coruna 0; Seville 1, Las Palmas 1.

Belgium: St. Trond 4, Crossing 0; Beveren-Waas 2, FC Liege 0; SC Charleroi 2, Lierse SK 0; Union St. Gilloise 3, AS Ostende 3; Racing White 3, Beringen 2; La Gantoise 3, Waregem 0; Standard Liege 2, Beerschot 2.

Bulgaria: Levski-Spartak 2, Trakia 1; Botev 0, CSKA 0; Krakra 1, CSJ Slavia 2; Etar 1, Maritza 0; Akademik 2, Beroe 0; Lokomotiv 0, Spartak 0; Dunav 1, Tschernomorez 1; Tscherno more 4, Marek 0.

Italy: Bari 0, Cagliari 0; Bologna 0, Torino 1; Juventus 2, Lazio 1; Vicenza 0, Brescia 1; AC Milan 4, Fiorentina 2; Napoli 0, Inter-Milan 0; Roma 1, Palermo 1; Verona 1, Sampdoria 1.

Greece: Aigaleo 2, PAOK 2; Panathinaikos 2, Panseraikos 0; Olympiakos Piraus 4, Panionios 1; Aris 1, OF Iraklion 0; Kavala 1, Vyzas 1; Pierikos 1, Iraklis 1; Panachaiki 1, Olympiakos Wolos 0; Proodeftiki 2, Ethnikos 0; Olympiakos Nikosia 0, AEK 1.

Northern Ireland: Ballymena 3, Glenavon 1; Bangor 1, Glentoran 1; Cliftonville 3, Coleraine 1; Derry 1, Crusaders 0; Linfield 2, Ards 2; Portadown 4, Distillery 2.

W/E DECEMBER 28

Belgium: Anderlecht 0, Racing White 0; FC Liege 0, St. Trond 2; La Gantoise 0, Standard Liege 0; AS Ostende 0, FC Bruges 4; SC Charlerio 1, Beerschot 0;

● *Continued overleaf*

SOCCERTISTICS

● *Continued from previous page*

Beveren-Waas 1, Union St. Gilloise 0; Lierse SK 2, Crossing 2.

Holland: NAC Breda 2, DOS 1; DWS 0, Twente 1; PSV 3, Telstar 1; SVV 0, Holland Sport 1; ADO 0, Haarlem 0; MVV 0, AZ'67 Alkmaar 1; Sparta 3, NEC Nijmegen 1.

Northern Ireland: Bangor 3, Distillery 1; Cliftonville 0, Ballymena 1; Coleraine 2, Crusaders 1; Glentoran 2, Glenavon 0; Linfield 2, Derry 4; Portadown 1, Ards 1. (Midweek)—Ards 2, Bangor 1; Ballymena 0, Glentoran 3; Crusaders 1, Linfield 3; Derry 0, Coleraine 1; Distillery 1, Cliftonville 1; Glenavon 0, Portadown 2.

Portugal: Varzim 0, Benfica 1; Sporting 4, Leixoes 1; Barreirense 0, Belenenses 0; Porto 1, Guimaraes 0; Braga 3, Boavista 0; Uniao de Tomar 1, Academica 0; Setubal 2, CUF 2.

Turkey: Goztepe 3, Samsunspor 0; Demirspor 2, Mersin I.Y. 2; Istanbulspor 0, Ankaragucu 0; Vefa 1, PTT 1; Fenerbache 1, Genclerbirligi 0; Altay 1, Besiktas 0; Eskisehir 5, Altinordu 0; Bursa 2, Galatasaray 0.

Italy: Bari 0, Lazio 0; Brescia 1, Fiorentina 2; Cagliari 1, AC Milan 1; Inter-Milan 0, Verona 0; Palermo 0, Napoli 0; Roma 0, Juventus 3; Sampdoria 0, Bologna 0; Torino 1, Vicenza 0.

Spain: Elche 1, Las Palmas 2; Real Zaragossa 5, Coruna 2; Mallorca 2, Atletico Bilboa 2; Valencia 1, Sabadell 0; Atletico Madrid 1, Sevilla 0; Celta Vigo 2, Real Sociedad 0; Granada 1, Pontevedra 0; Barcelona 1, Real Madrid 0.

Greece: AEK 1, Aigaleo 1; OF Iraklion 3, PAOK 1; Aris 3, Kavala 0; Panionios 0, Panathinaikos 2; Vyzas 1, Ethnikos 1; Panseraikos 3, Pierikos 0; Iraklis 1, Proodeftiki 0; Olympiakos Piraus 4, Panachaiki 2; Olympiakos Wolos 1, Olympiakos Nikosia 0.

Bulgaria: CSJ Slavia 1, Levski-Spartak 1; CSKA 0, Akademik 1; Maritza 3, Tscherno more 2; Spartak 1, Botev 1; Tschernomorez 3, Lokomotiv 2; Trakia 1, Dunav 0; Marek 1, Krakra 0; Beroe 2, Etar 1.

LEAGUE TABLES

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Panathinaikos	12	11	1	0	28	7	35
Olym. Piraus	12	9	1	2	26	10	31
AEK	12	8	2	2	10	8	30
Aris	12	8	1	3	18	5	29
Iraklis	12	7	3	2	18	12	29
Panseraikos	12	5	3	4	17	9	25
Aigaleo	12	4	4	4	16	14	24
Proodeftiki	12	5	2	5	12	13	24
Panionios	12	5	1	6	24	16	23
PAOK	12	2	7	3	18	13	23
Pierikos	12	3	5	4	12	14	23
OF Iraklion	12	4	2	6	11	17	22
Vyzas	12	3	4	5	14	22	22
Olym. Wolos	12	4	2	6	9	16	22
Ethnikos	12	1	6	5	7	16	20
Panachaiki	12	2	3	7	13	23	19
Kavala	12	2	2	8	7	20	18
Olym. Nikosia	12	0	1	11	3	32	13

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Altay	11	7	4	0	13	2	18
Fenerbache	11	7	3	1	12	4	17
Mersin I.Y.	11	3	4	2	15	10	14
Eskisehir	11	6	1	4	20	10	13
Galatasaray	9	5	2	2	13	7	12
Samsun	10	4	4	2	9	7	12
Besiktas	11	4	4	3	11	9	12
Ankaragucu	11	3	5	3	10	9	11
Demirspor	11	3	5	3	10	10	11
Goztepe	10	3	4	3	10	7	10
Bursa	10	3	2	5	7	10	8
Istanbulspor	10	3	2	5	6	11	8
PTT	11	2	4	5	5	16	8
Altinordu	11	2	3	6	7	15	7
Genclerbirligi	11	1	3	7	3	14	5
Vefa	11	0	4	7	5	15	4

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
St. Etienne	17	13	3	1	52	18	29
Bordeaux	19	9	6	4	36	24	24
Marseille	18	8	6	4	31	20	22
Sedan/RCP	18	7	6	5	26	24	20
Strasbourg	18	9	1	8	38	34	19
Angoulême	18	6	7	5	28	25	19
Sochaux	17	6	6	5	26	27	18
Nantes	17	7	3	7	28	26	17
Nimes	19	7	3	9	36	32	17
Ajaccio	19	7	3	9	20	23	17
Lyon	19	7	3	9	34	46	17
Metz	17	5	6	6	23	22	16
Angers	18	6	4	8	30	36	16
Valenciennes	19	6	4	9	29	30	16
Red Star Paris	17	5	5	7	24	31	15
Rouen	18	5	5	8	26	28	15
Bastia	19	6	3	10	31	41	15
Rennes	19	4	6	9	28	30	14

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Bor. Moenchen.	17	12	3	2	40	13	27
Bayern Munchen	16	10	2	4	36	19	22
Koln	17	10	2	5	41	16	22
Hertha BSC	17	9	3	5	23	18	21
Schalke 04	16	8	4	4	27	23	20
Bor. Dortmund	17	8	3	6	27	24	19
Hamburger SV	17	6	5	6	30	27	17
VfB Stuttgart	17	7	3	7	33	33	17
RW Essen	17	5	6	6	24	26	16
MSV Duisberg	17	5	6	6	21	27	16
Kaiserslautern	17	6	4	7	24	31	16
Eint. Frankfurt	17	5	5	7	22	29	15
Eint. Brunswick	17	5	5	7	18	25	15
RW Oberhausen	17	6	2	9	27	32	14
Werder Bremen	17	4	6	7	18	24	14
Hannover 96	17	5	3	9	23	33	13
Aleman. Aachen	17	4	3	10	18	35	11
TSV 1860 Munch.	17	3	3	11	13	32	9

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Spartak Moscow	26	19	5	2	60	11	43
Dynamo Kiev	26	16	7	3	37	11	39
Dynamo Tbilisi	26	12	11	3	34	17	35
Dynamo Moscow	26	12	7	7	44	28	31
Torpedo Moscow	26	11	9	6	29	19	31
CSKA Moscow	26	10	9	7	19	14	29
Neftschi Baku	26	6	11	9	26	27	23
Tschernomorez O.	26	7	7	12	17	26	21
Zenit Leningrad	26	6	9	11	21	34	21
Schachtjor Donezk	26	6	8	12	20	28	20
Sarja Lugansk	26	5	9	12	21	30	19
SKA Rostow	26	6	7	13	23	37	19
Dynamo Minsk	26	5	9	12	14	31	19
Torpedo Kutaisi	26	4	6	16	20	50	14

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Zurich	12	6	4	2	24	15	16
Lugano	13	6	4	3	22	16	16
Lausanne	13	4	8	1	26	21	16
Servette	13	5	5	3	29	16	15
Grasshoppers	13	6	3	4	16	11	15
Basle	13	5	4	4	26	18	14
Winterthur	13	5	4	4	23	16	14
Fribourg	13	6	1	6	18	15	13
Young Boys	13	5	3	5	22	25	13
Biel	13	6	1	6	13	20	13
Chaux-de-Fonds	12	5	0	7	16	29	10
Wettingen	13	4	2	7	17	24	10
Bellinzona	12	2	4	6	9	19	8
St. Gallen	12	2	1	9	11	27	5

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Cagliari	14	7	6	1	14	6	20
Juventus	14	7	3	4	19	10	17
Inter-Milan	14	6	5	3	16	10	17
AC Milan	14	6	5	3	17	11	17
Fiorentina	14	7	3	4	19	18	17
Torino	14	6	4	4	11	11	16
Vicenza	14	6	3	5	18	12	15
Verona	14	5	5	4	13	11	15
Napoli	14	4	6	4	9	8	14
Roma	14	4	5	5	14	20	13
Bari	14	3	7	4	5	10	13
Bologna	14	2	8	4	11	12	12
Lazio	14	4	3	7	12	15	11
Sampdoria	14	1	8	5	8	13	10
Palermo	14	2	5	7	12	21	9
Brescia	14	2	4	8	8	18	8

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Atletico Madrid	16	10	3	3	25	12	23
Atletico Bilbao	16	9	4	3	24	11	22
Real Madrid	16	8	4	4	27	19	20
Granada	16	8	4	4	17	12	20
Valencia	16	7	5	4	15	9	19
Real Zaragoza	16	8	3	5	21	17	19
Sevilla	16	7	3	6	17	17	17
Real Sociedad	16	8	1	7	22	23	17
Celta Vigo	16	6	4	6	20	18	16
Barcelona	16	6	4	6	19	20	16
Las Palmas	16	6	3	7	20	21	15
Sabadell	16	6	2	8	16	18	14
Elche	16	4	5	7	18	26	13
Coruna	16	4	4	8	15	22	12
Mallorca	16	3	3	10	23	35	9
Pontevedra	16	1	2	13	9	28	4

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Glentoran	11	8	2	1	21	6	18
Ards	11	7	4	0	20	8	18
Derry	10	6	1	3	20	14	13
Coleraine	11	6	1	4	22	15	13
Portadown	11	6	1	4	21	20	13
Linfield	11	5	2	4	22	18	12
Crusaders	11	5	1	5	25	19	11
Bangor	10	3	2	5	16	18	8
Ballymena	11	3	1	7	14	22	7
Distillery	11	3	1	7	16	30	7
Glenavon	11	2	3	6	10	23	7
Cliftonville	11	1	1	9	6	20	3

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Levski-Spartak	15	12	2	1	39	10	26
CSKA	15	10	2	3	37	14	22
Trakia	15	9	3	3	27	13	21
CSJ Slavia	15	6	6	3	19	16	18
Tscherno more	15	6	4	5	26	19	16
Tschernomorez	15	4	8	3	18	18	16
Etar	15	5	5	5	17	16	15
Lokomotiv	15	6	3	6	26	29	15
Spartak	15	5	4	6	12	30	14
Dunav	15	5	3	7	13	15	13
Marek	15	6	1	8	23	26	13
Beroe	15	5	3	7	16	25	13
Akademik	15	4	4	7	17	18	12
Botev	15	4	3	8	14	22	11
Maritza	15	4	1	10	15	28	9
Krakra	15	2	2	11	13	33	6

Spartak Moscow players salute their supporters after making sure of winning the Russian title. (UPI)

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Cork Hibs.	12	9	2	1	23	9	20
Waterford	12	9	0	3	25	16	18
Dundalk	12	8	2	2	24	17	18
Limerick	12	7	2	3	21	11	16
Shamrock Rovers	12	5	6	1	23	14	16
Finn Harps	12	6	2	4	28	21	14
Sligo Rovers	12	5	3	4	17	19	13
Shelbourne	12	4	3	5	18	15	11
St. Patrick's	12	5	0	7	16	18	10
Drumcondra	12	2	4	6	16	23	8
Cork Celtic	12	2	3	7	13	21	7
Drogheda	12	2	3	7	10	22	7
Athlone Town	12	2	2	8	14	29	6
Bohemians	12	1	2	9	13	26	4

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Austria Wien	15	11	2	2	32	13	24
Wacker Innsbruck	14	9	1	4	27	12	19
Wien Sportklub	15	8	3	4	28	14	19
Austria Salzburg	15	8	1	6	24	19	17
Sturm Graz	15	6	5	4	22	20	17
Rapid	15	6	4	5	24	19	16
Wattens	15	6	3	6	22	15	15
Linz ASK	15	5	5	5	16	11	15
Grazer AK	15	4	7	4	16	14	15
Vienna	14	3	8	4	14	20	14
Voest	15	6	2	7	13	26	14
Admira	15	5	3	7	19	25	13
Wacker Wien	14	5	2	7	27	34	12
Austria Klagenfurt	15	2	8	5	16	22	8
Eisenstadt	15	2	4	9	12	28	8
Dornbirn	15	2	4	9	14	34	8

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Legia	13	9	2	2	27	12	20
Polonia	13	8	3	2	20	10	19
Gornik	13	8	3	2	19	11	19
Ruch Chorzow	13	7	4	2	24	11	18
Z. Sosnowiec	13	7	2	4	23	16	16
GKS Katowice	13	6	2	5	16	11	14
Wisla	13	5	4	4	13	17	14
Gwardia	13	4	3	6	17	15	11
Stal	13	4	3	6	11	21	11
Pogon	13	3	4	6	10	15	10
Szombierki	13	2	5	6	11	17	9
Z. Walbrzych	13	2	4	7	10	21	8
Odra	13	2	3	8	7	22	7
Cracovia	13	1	4	8	13	22	6

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Standard Liege	16	10	4	2	31	13	24
La Gantoise	16	10	2	4	30	17	22
Beveren-Waas	16	8	5	3	23	13	21
FC Bruges	14	8	2	4	27	19	18
Lierse SK	15	6	6	3	22	13	18
Beerschot	16	7	4	5	20	12	18
Anderlecht	14	6	5	3	30	14	17
SC Charleroi	16	7	2	7	24	20	16
Racing White	16	5	5	6	19	25	15
U. St. Gilloise	15	4	6	5	15	20	14
St. Trond	16	5	4	7	24	27	14
Waregem	16	4	5	7	15	32	13
Ostende	16	3	5	8	14	29	11
Crossing	16	3	4	9	15	36	10
Beringen	15	2	5	8	13	23	9
FC Liege	15	3	2	10	16	25	8

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Ajax	16	15	0	1	46	9	30
Feijenoord	16	12	4	0	38	7	28
PSV	17	11	3	3	37	18	25
Twente	17	7	6	4	20	18	20
Holland Sport	16	8	3	5	23	21	19
ADO	17	6	7	4	23	17	19
NAC	16	7	4	5	18	18	18
Sparta	17	7	4	6	29	25	18
MVV	17	5	8	4	23	21	18
Haarlem	17	5	8	4	14	17	18
NEC	17	6	5	6	19	18	17
AZ'67	17	5	5	7	17	21	15
Go Ahead	16	4	6	6	15	23	14
Telstar	17	3	4	10	15	26	10
GVAV	16	2	4	10	10	26	8
DWS	17	3	2	12	12	29	8
DOS	17	2	4	11	10	25	8
SVV	17	2	3	12	17	47	7

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Sporting	13	10	2	1	28	7	22
Benfica	13	9	1	3	35	6	19
Setubal	13	6	4	3	24	13	16
Varzim	13	6	4	3	13	10	16
Guimaraes	13	5	3	5	19	18	13
Porto	13	5	3	5	19	19	13
Belenenses	13	5	3	5	15	18	13
Barreirense	13	4	4	5	21	21	12
Academica	13	4	4	5	19	21	12
Leixoes	13	6	0	7	20	23	12
Braga	13	4	3	6	14	22	11
CUF	13	4	1	8	14	25	9
Uniao de Tomar	13	3	2	8	12	28	8
Boavista	13	1	4	8	15	27	6

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Zeleznicar	17	11	3	3	34	17	25
Red Star	17	11	2	4	36	19	24
Dinamo	17	7	8	2	26	15	22
Hajduk	17	9	2	6	28	16	20
OFK Belgrade	17	7	6	4	24	16	20
Velez	17	7	6	4	34	27	20
Radnicki Nis.	17	9	2	6	23	18	20
Sarajevo	17	6	7	4	19	16	19
Partizan	17	7	5	5	18	17	19
Sloboda	17	6	6	5	20	18	18
Bor	17	4	8	5	16	19	16
Maribor	17	6	4	7	18	25	16
Vojvodina	17	5	4	8	22	28	14
Vardar	17	6	2	9	15	25	14
Radnicki Kra.	17	5	3	9	17	22	13
Celik	17	2	6	9	13	30	10
Olimpija	17	4	1	12	18	34	9
Zagreb	17	1	5	11	10	29	7

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE RESULTS

NOVEMBER 16 (and week)

Argentina (National Championship): Boca Juniors 0, San Martin Méndoza) 1; Huracan 1, Union Santa Fe 2; River Plate 2, Lanus 0; Estudiantes 2, Chacarita Juniors 2; Platense 2, Velez Sarsfield 3; Sportivo Desamparados San Juan 1, Racing 2; Taleres Cordoba 4, San Martin Tucuman 0; Independiente 1, San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 1; San Lorenzo (Buenos Aires) 3, Quilmes 0.

Uruguay: Nacional 3, Cerro 0; Penarol 2, Danubio 0; Bella Vista 4, Racing 1; Sudamerica 1, River Plate 0; Defensor 1, Liverpool 0. (November 19)—Nacional 0, Penarol 0.

Brazil (National Championship/Pedro Gomes Cup)—Fluminense (Rio) 2, Portuguesa de Desportes (San Paulo) 2; Curitiba 2, Corinthians (Sao Paulo) 2; Gremio (Port Alegre) 0, America (Rio) 2; Santa Cruz (Recife) 0, Santos 4; Palmeiras (Sao Paulo) 1, Vasco de Gama (Rio) 0. (November 17)—Bahia (Salvador) 1, Santos 1. (November 19)—Vasco de Gama (Rio) 1, Santos 2.

Chile (National Championship) —Audax-Italiano 3, Magallanes 1; Rangers 1, Everton 0; Union Espanola 2, Colo Colo 0; O'Higgins 2, La Serena 1; Santiago Morning 1, Green Cross 0; Wanderers 3, La Calera 1; Huanchipato 1, Concepcion 1; Universidad Catolica 1, Palestino 1; Antofagasta 2, Universidad de Chile 0.

Colombia: Millionarios de Bogota 1, Deportivo Cali 0; America 4, Tolima 2; Nacional 0, Santa Fe 1; Juniors 2, Cucuta 1; Once Caldas 2, Pereira 0; Quindio 1, Medellin 1; Bucaramanga 1, Union Magdalena 1. (Midweek)—Union Magdalena 1, Millionarios 2.

Peru (First Division) — Porvenir Miraflores 2, Universitario 1; Municipal 5, KDT 1; Manucci 1, Juan Aurich 0; Sport Boys 0, Defensor Lima 0; Atletico Grau 0, Octavio Espinoza 0; Centro Iqueno 1, Alianza Lima 1.

Paraguay: Olimpia 1, Cerro Porteno 0; Sol de America 1, Nacional 0; Libertad 3, San Lorenzo 0.

Mexico: Cruz Azul 0, Necaxa 0; Veracruz 0, Universidad 2; Laguna 0, America 2; Monterrey 3, Pachuca 1; Leon 3, Toluca 2; Irapuato 1, Atlas 0. (Midweek) —Atlante 0, Torreon 0; Guadalajara 3, Oro 0.

NOVEMBER 23

Argentina (National Championship)—Union Santa Fe 1, Boca Juniors 1; San Martin Mendoza 0, River Plate 1; Racing 0, Talleres (Cordoba) 1; Velez Sarsfield 1, Sportivo Desamparados San Juan 1; Huracan 1, Independiente 2; Lanus 1, San Lorenzo (Buenos Aires) 2; San Martin (Tucuman) 0, San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 0; Quilmes 2, Estudiantes 1; Chacarita Juniors 4, Platense 2.

Uruguay: Nacional 5, River Plate 1; Penarol 3, Defensor 1; Bella Vista 2, Sudamerica 0; Cerro 1, Racing 0; Liverpool 3, Rampla Juniors 0.

Peru: Octavio Espinoza 1, Defensor Arica 1; Municipal 2, Sporting Cristal 0; Juan Aurich 2, Centro Iqueno 1; Atletico Grau 2, KDT 0; Universitario 3, Sport Boys 0; Carlos Manucci 0, Defensor Lima 0.

Colombia: Santa Fe 1, Quindio 1; Cali 1, Bucaramanga 1; Medellin 2, Milionarios 2; Union Magdalena 1. Once Caldas 0; Pereira 1, Juniors 1; Cucuta 0, America 0; Tolima, Nacional 0.

Paraguay: Guarani 0, Cerro Porteno 0.

NOVEMBER 30 (and week)

Argentina (National Championship)—Boca Juniors 1, Huracan 0; River Plate 2, Union Santa Fe 0; San Lorenzo 4, San Martin Mendoza 1; Independiente 7, San Martin (Tucuman) 1; San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 2, Racing 1; Estudiantes 1, Lanus 0; Sportivo Desamparados San Juan 1, Chacarita Juniors 2; Talleres (Cordoba) 0, Velez Sarsfield 3; Platense 3, Quilmes 3.

Uruguay: Penarol 5, Rampla Juniors 0; Cerro 2, Sudamerica 2; Defensor 1, Danubio 1; Bella Vista 2, River Plate 0.

Chile: Union Espanola 4, O'Higgins 2; Everton 0, Colo Colo 0; Audax-Italiano 3, La Serena 2; Antofagasta 0, Magallanes 0; Green Cross 1, La Calera 0; Palestino 1, Wanderers 1; Universidad Catolica 1, Huachipato 0; Universidad de Chile 2, Concepcion 1; Rangers 2, Santiago Morning 2.

Peru: Deportivo Municipal 3, Carlos Manucci 2; Atletico Grau 2, Porvenir Miraflores 0; Sporting Cristal 3, Juan Aurich 1; Octavio Espinoza 2, Sport Boys 1; Defensor Arica 2, Alianza Lima 1; Defensor Lima 2, Centro Iqueno 0; Universitario de Deportes 2, KDT 0.

Colombia: Millionarios 1, Quindio 0; America 2, Pereira 0; Nacional 1, Cucuta 0; Juniors 1, Union Magdalena 1; Once Caldas 1, Cali 0; Bucaramanga 3, Medellin 1, Tolima 0, Santa Fe 1.

Paraguay: Olimpia 2, Libertad 1; Guarani 2, Sol de America 0; Sportivo Luqueno 4, Nacional 1. (December 4)—Cerro Porteno 2, Olimpia 1.

Brazil (National Championship/Pedro Gomes Cup)—Final Round) — Botafogo (Rio) 2, Cruzeiro (Bello Horizonte) 2; Corinthians (Sao Paulo) 0, Palmeiras (Sao Paulo) 0. (December 4)—Corinthians 1, Botafogo 0; Cruzeiro 1, Palmeiras 1.

Mexico: Cruz Azul 3, Laguna 1; Veracruz 2, Atlas 1; Toluca 3, Universidad 1; Leon 3, America 1; Atlante 5, Oro 2; Irapuato 1, Torreono. (November 26)—Guadalajara 1, Monterrey 0; Necaxa 2, Irapuato 2.

DECEMBER 7

Argentina: Boca Juniors 2, Independiente 0; Huracan 1, River Plate 3; Union Santa Fe 0, San Lorenzo (Buenos Aires) 2; Lanus 3, Platense 1; Quilmes 4, Sportivo Desamparados San Juan 2; Velez Sarsfield 5, San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 0; San Martin (Mendoza) 0, Estudiantes 2; Chacarita Juniors 2, Talleres (Cordoba) 0; Racing 5, San Martin (Tucuman) 1.

Uruguay: (Final Round) — Nacional 3, Bella Vista 0; River Plate 3, Cerro 1; Penarol 6, Sudamerica 0.

Brazil: Palmeiras 3, Botafogo 1; Cruzeiro 2, Corinthians 1.

Colombia: Millionarios 0, Sante Fe 1; Cali 2, Juniors 0; Medellin 3, Once Caldas 1; Union Magdalena 1, America 0; Pereira 2, Nacional 2; Quindio 3, Bucaramanga 0; Cucuta 3, Tolima 4.

DECEMBER 14 (and week)

Argentina: (last games) River Plate 2, Boca Juniors 2; Independiente 1, Racing 3; Sportivo Desamparados San Juan 4, Lanus 2; San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 1, Chacarita Juniors 2; San Lorenzo (Buenos Aires) 2, Huracan 1; Talleres (Cordoba) 3, Quilmes 2; San Martin (Tucuman) 1, Valez Sarsfield 2; Estudiantes 3, Union Santa Fe 1; Platense 1, San Martin (Men-

● *Continued overleaf*

doza) 1. (December 17)—River Plate 1, San Lorenzo (Buenos Aires) 0 (first play-off for second place).

Uruguay: Nacional 2, Cerro 0; Penarol 2, River Plate 1. (December 17)—Penarol 1, Nacional 1; River Plate 2, Sudamerica 1; Bella Vista 1, Cerro 0.

Chile: Colo Colo 4, Rangers 1; Everton 5, O'Higgins 1; Huachipato 1, Wanderers 0; Green Cross 1, Palestino 0; Santiago Morning 0, La Calera 0; Audax-Italiano 3, Union Espanola 1; Antofagasta 3, La Serena 1; Concepcion 2, Magallanes 0.

Peru: Juan Aurich 2, Deportivo Municipal 0; Universitario 2, Defensor Arica 1; Defensor Lima 3, Carlos Manucci 1; Sport Boys 1, Sporting Cristal 1; Centro Iqueno 0, Octavio Espinoza 0; Alianza Lima 3, Atletico Grau 0; Porvenir Miraflores 3, KDT 2.

Paraguay: Olimpia 2, Sol de America 0; Nacional 2, Cerro Porteno 1.

Colombia: (second part—last games)—Santa Fe 3, Cucuta 0; Cali 1, America 0; Nacional 0, Union Magdalena 0; Juniors 4, Medellin 2; Once Caldas 2, Quindio 0; Holima 0, Pereira 1; Bucaramanga 0, Millionarios 1.

Ecuador: Liga Deportiva (Universitaria 3, Nacional 1.

Mexico: Guadalajara 2, Necaxa 1; Leon 2, Cruz Azul 0; Oro 3, Irapuato 1; America 2, Toluca 1; Laguna 0, Pachuca 0; Monterrey 2, Atlante 0; Atlas 1, Universitario 1; Veracruz 2, Torreon 1.

LEAGUE TABLES

COLOMBIA
(Final standings)

1.	Millionarios	40 pts.
	Deportivo Cali	40 ,,
3.	Dep. Pereira	32 ,,
	Quindio	32 ,,
5.	America d. Cali	30 ,,
6.	Juniors	29 ,,
7.	Tolima	27 ,,
8.	Santa Fe	26 ,,
	Once Caldas	26 ,,
10.	Nacional	20 ,,
11.	Magdalena	17 ,,
12.	Bucaramanga	16 ,,
13.	Medellin	15 ,,
14.	Cucuta	14 ,,

URUGUAY
(final table as on November 30)

	P	W	D	L	P.
Nacional	20	16	4	0	36
Penarol	20	12	6	2	30
Bella Vista	20	9	5	6	23
Racing	20	7	7	6	21
River Plate	20	6	8	6	20
Sudamerica	20	7	6	7	20
Cerro	20	5	6	9	19
Defensor	20	4	7	9	15
Rampla Juniors	20	3	8	9	14
Liverpool	20	4	6	10	14
Danubio	20	3	5	12	11

(Top six play a further round of matches for title, carrying on with Points already obtained.)

SOCCERTISTICS

● *Continued overleaf*

PERU
Group A:

1.	Municipal	20 pts.
	Universitario	20 ,,
3.	Alianza Lima	17 ,,
	Defensor Arica	17 ,,
5.	Juan Aurich	16 ,,
6.	Atletico Grau	13 ,,

Group B:

1.	Defensor Lima	15 pts.
2.	Espinoza	14 ,,
	Sport Boys	14 ,,
	Porvenir Mir.	14 ,,
5.	Carlos Manucci	12 ,,
	Sporting Cristal	12 ,,
7.	Centro Iqueno	9 ,,
8.	KDT	3 ,,

PARAGUAY
(Final standings)

1.	Guarani	36 pts.
2.	Olimpia	31 ,,
3.	Cerro Porteno	28 ,,

BRAZIL (as on November 16)

Group A:	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Corinthians	16	10	4	2	29	13	24
Cruzeiro	16	9	4	3	25	14	22
Internacional	16	8	4	4	24	15	20
America	16	4	8	4	25	20	16
Santos	16	5	5	6	28	24	15
Santa Cruz	16	4	6	6	17	26	14
Portuguesa	16	3	8	5	19	27	14
Flamengo	16	3	6	7	17	30	12

Group B:	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Palmeiras	16	9	1	6	24	19	19
Botafogo	16	8	2	6	19	18	18
Atletico	16	8	1	7	31	23	17
Fluminense	16	5	5	6	20	21	15
Gremio	16	5	5	6	17	19	15
Bahia	16	5	5	6	19	25	15
Curitiba	16	5	4	7	19	22	14
San Paulo	16	5	4	7	22	27	14
Vasco da Gama	16	2	4	8	13	24	8

(Top two from each group play-off for title)

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Palmeiras	3	1	2	0	4	2	4
Cruzeiro	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Corinthians	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Botafogo	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

(Palmeiras champions on goal average)

ARGENTINA
(final league table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Boca Juniors	17	13	3	1	35	11	29
San Lorenzo (BA)	17	12	3	2	41	18	27
River Plate	17	11	5	1	34	11	27
Independiente	17	11	3	3	36	14	25
Quilmes	17	9	1	7	35	30	19
Velez Sarsfield	17	6	7	4	22	14	19
Chacarita Juniors	17	6	6	5	26	26	18
Racing Club	17	7	3	7	25	20	17
Huracan	17	7	3	7	22	18	17
Estudiantes	17	7	2	8	26	26	16
Talleres	17	6	2	9	22	35	14
Mendoza	17	3	8	6	17	30	14
Desamparados	17	5	3	9	27	38	13
Lanus	17	5	2	10	18	24	12
Union	17	3	6	8	17	26	12
Platense	17	4	2	11	25	35	10
S.M. (Tucuman)	17	2	5	10	14	41	9
SM (M del Plata)	17	3	2	12	19	44	8

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING MATCHES

DECEMBER 3

Group 2: (play-off in Marseille)

Czechoslovakia (1) 4 (Kvasnak, pen., Vesely, Adamec, Jokl)
Hungary (0) 1 (Kocsis, pen.)

Czechoslovakia: Victor; Pivarnik, Hagara; Petras, Horvath, Migas; Vesely, Kuna (Pollak), Adamec, Kvasnak, Jokl.
Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Keleman, Ihasz; Halmosi, Meszoly, Nosko; Panckas, Gorocz (Kocsis), Bene, Farkas (Puskas), Zambo.
(Ref.: Machin/France).

DECEMBER 5

Group 15:

Israel (1) 1 (Zeman o.g.) 50,000
Australia (0) 0

Israel: Vissoker; Bar (Lubetski), Bello; Rosenthal, Shuruk, Rosen; Talbi, Spiegler, Feigenbaum, Spiegel, Schum.
Australia: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Watkiss, Schaefer, Zeman; Abonyi, Rutherford, Baartz, Warren, McColl (Vojtek).
(Ref.: F. Marchall/Austria).

DECEMBER 7

Group 8:

Luxembourg (0) 1 (Philipp pen.) 5,500
Bulgaria (2) 3 (Dermendijev, Yakimov, Bonev)

Luxembourg: Hoffmann (R.); Kuffer, Hoffmann (J.); Schartz, Leszczynski, Pilot; Dublin, Zangerle, Philipp, Schmit (A.), Hoffmann (N.).
Bulgaria: Simeonov; Shalamanov, Dimitrov; Jetchev, Gaganelov, Penev; Dermendijev, Bonev, Asparoukhov, Yakimov, Jetkov.
(Ref.: Jones/Wales).

DECEMBER 14

Australia (0) 1 (Watkiss) 32,000
Israel (0) 1 (Spiegler)

Australia: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Warren, Schaefer, Marnoch; Abonyi, Watkiss, Baartz, Walsh, Vojtek (Rutherford).
Israel: Vissoker; Bar, Bello; Rosenthal, Primo, Rosen; Barad (Talbi), Spiegel, Feigenbaum, Spiegler, Schum (Lubetski).
(Ref.: F. Marchall/Austria).

SUPER CUP
(South American Section)

NOVEMBER 13

Racing Club (Argentina) (0) 0
Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 0

Racing Club: Cejas; Chabay, Diaz; Rulli, Perfumo, Basile; Cardenas, Cominelli, Machado da Silva, Wolff, Salomone (Lamelza).
Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves, Figueroa, Matosas; Cortes, Rocha, Spencer, Onega (E.), Joya (Losada).
(Ref.: J. Crazut/Chile).

NOVEMBER 20

Estudiantes (Argentina) (0) 0
Racing Club (0) 1 (Cardenas, pen.)

Estudiantes: Flores; Pagnanini, Malbernat (Medina); Bilardo, Togneri, Madero; Romeo, Echecopar, Conigliaro, Taverna (Rodzki), Veron.
Racing Club: Cejas; Chabay, Diaz; Rulli, Perfumo (Paulino), Basile; Cardenas, Aguirre, Machado da Silva, Wolff, Salomone.
(Ref.: L. Pestarino/Argentina).

NOVEMBER 26

Penarol (2) 3 (Rocha 2, Losada)
Estudiantes (0) 1 (Veron)

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves, Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna, Rocha, Spencer (Lambert), Onega (E.), Losada.
Estudiantes: Flores; Pagnanini, Medina; Bilardo, Togneri, Madero; Romeo, Echecopar, Conigliaro, Taverna, Veron.
(Ref.: C. Orosco).

NOVEMBER 29

Racing Club (1) 2 (Machado da Silva 2)
Santos (Brazil) (0) 1 (Edu)

Racing Club: Cejas; Chabay, Diaz; Rulli, Paolini, Basile; Cardenas, Aguirre, Machado da Silva, Wolff (Cominelli), Salomone.
Santos: Jair; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Clodoaldo, Ramos Delgado, Joel; Edu, Negreiros (Lima), Manoel Maria, Pele, Abel (Luis Carlos).
(Ref.: P. Vega/Uruguay).

DECEMBER 2

Penarol (1) 2 (Spencer, Onega)
Santos (1) 1 (Pele) 70,000

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves, Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna (Joya), Rocha, Spencer, Onega (E.), Losada.
Santos: Jair; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Clodoaldo (Marcial), Ramos Delgado, Joel; Manoel Maria, Negreiros, Luis Carlos, Pele, Edu.
(Ref.: Domingo Massaro/Chile).

DECEMBER 4

Estudiantes (2) 3 (Veron 2, Conigliaro)
Santos (1) 1 (Manoel Maria)

Estudiantes: Flores; Pagnanini, Malbernat; Bilardo (Echecopar), Spadero, Madero; Romeo, Togneri (Medina), Conigliaro, Aguilar, Veron.
Santos: Aguinaldo; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Clodoaldo, Ramos Delgado, Joel; Manoel Maria, Negreiros, Luis Carlos, Pele, Edu (Abel).
(Ref.: R. Barreiros/Argentina).

DECEMBER 9

Santos (0) 0
Racing Club (0) 2 (Adorno, Cardenas)

Santos: Jair; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Lima (Nene), Ramos Delgado, Joel; Edu, Clodoaldo, Luis Carlos, Pele, Abel.
Racing Club: Cejas; Paulino, Chabay; Rulli, Perfumo, Basile; Adorno, Aguirre, Machado da Silva, Cominelli, Cardenas.
(Ref.: A. Coelho Filho/Brazil).

DECEMBER 11

Santos (0) 2 (Pele, Manoel Maria)
Penarol (0) 0

Santos: Jair; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Nene, Ramos Delgado, Joel; Manoel Maria, Clodoaldo, Luis Carlos, Pele, Edu.
Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves (Viera), Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna, Rocha, Spencer (Joya), Onega (E.), Losada.
(Ref.: A. Pazos/Uruguay).

(Current standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Racing Club	4	3	1	0	5	1	7
Penarol	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Estudiantes	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Santos	5	1	0	4	5	9	2

INTERNATIONAL

DECEMBER 10

England (1) 1 (Charlton J.)
Portugal (0) 0 100,000

England: Bonetti; Reaney, Hughes; Mullery, Charlton (J.), Moore; Lee, Bell (Peters), Astle, Charlton (B.), Ball.
Portugal: Henrique; Conceicao, Murca; Toma, Cardoso, Jose Carlos; Guerreiro, Graca (Campos), Antonio (Figueiredo), Toni, Jacinto Joao.
(Ref.: Mouton/France).

JANUARY 4

Malta (0) 1 (Cini)
Luxembourg (1) 1 (Nicolas Hoffmann)

Malta: Mizzi; Privitera, Mallia; Va Sallo, Camilleri, Della; Cocks, Cini, Arpa (Thobald), Aquilina, Borg.
Luxembourg: Stendebach; Schmidt, Flenghi; Leszczyski, Johnny Hoffmann, Schmidt; Schartz, Dublin, Nicolas Hoffmann, Cardony, Kirchens.
(Ref.: d'Agostini/Italy).

International Post-Mortem by ROGER MACDONALD

INDONESIA MASQUERADE —ENGLAND AS WELL?

● Continued from page 13

Thailand were completely outclassed, and after both teams abandoned their early wild clearances, Burma got a goal. The scorer was Myo Win Nyunt, whose 35th minute shot found goalkeeper Saravouth Prathipakgnchai unsighted.

With a 40,000 crowd behind them Burma kept up the pressure and scored a second goal five minutes after half-time. Full-back Suchin Kasiwat stupidly handled a centre and Maung Maung Tin scored from the penalty spot. It was left to Tin Aung Moe to score the best goal of the match in the 61st minute, sweeping in a pass from Nyunt which bisected two defenders perfectly.

In Medan the Indonesian national side, masquerading as PSMS, one of the leading clubs, played a friendly against Aalborg of Denmark. The game took place in pouring rain and very humid conditions, which the Danes did not find easy to cope with, especially as they were tired after a long plane flight only a few hours earlier. Indonesia had most of the play, but lacked firepower, and Aalborg were level at half-time. Ridijanto put Indonesia ahead after 35 minutes, but a bad defensive error allowed Bak to equalise five minutes later. The Indonesians dominated the second half, but could manage only one goal—through Dutjapto after 55 minutes.

REMINDER

In Mexico City the inexperienced and totally unprepared Swedish club Atvidaberg, gave the Mexican World Cup team a sharp reminder that altitude and home advantage are not enough in themselves to guarantee success. In fact Atvidaberg, given no time to adjust themselves to the conditions, went ahead in the first minute through Gunnar Andersson, and it took Mexico the rest of the match to get the two goals they needed (through Fragoso and Horacio) to prevent a disgrace. The Mexican team was not experimental in the true sense, but chosen strictly on form—which must leave them with nightmares of what could happen when they play a real team during the World Cup itself.

CHECKED

Sweden, incidentally, have had their top 25 players checked in a low-pressure cabin to see if they can cope with the 7,600 feet of Mexico City. One of those who took part in the experiment, Leif Eriksson, said he found it easy to breathe at low pressure, but after jogging up and down for half an hour his legs felt like lead. Sweden's manager, Ovar Bergmark, said he thought the results of the test were important in terms of his final selection, but not conclusive. He said: "I'm sure we can cope with the Mexico air, but it would be foolish not to try to simulate conditions if we can."

Mexico will be having a more realistic try-out on the spot when they go to Mexico for two internationals at the end of February. But because of club commitments involving their players based abroad, they won't be able to return to Mexico until 12 days before the World Cup starts.

If Mexico have their troubles, England, too, cannot view their international against Portugal with any degree of satisfaction. I could not understand the tactics which put a surfeit of providers (Bell, Ball, Bobby Charlton, Mullery) out on a heavy surface against one of the weakest teams in Europe. After all, Portugal were playing without six first-choice men, including Eusebio, Torres and Simoes, and had just completed a World Cup qualifying series that left them bottom of a group involving such giants of the game as Rumania, Greece and Switzerland.

Here, surely, was a game England should have won by a street—rather than by a header from a corner well-taken by the Charlton combination, which will not work in Mexico in a month of Sundays. Given that Bell hit the crossbar and Bobby Charlton hit the post, the number of direct and telling shots at goal England achieved was pitifully few. It is significant that England's striking power was so negligible that no one noticed that the Portuguese goalkeeper Henrique was in severe pain during the match, and subsequent examination showed that he had a broken bone in his left hand.

If the match was of any value, it showed, surely, that Astle lacks the mobility on the ground to be much use to England in Mexico; that neither Bell nor Bobby Charlton possess the probing ability of Martin Peters, whose first two passes as a second-half substitute were better than most of theirs all put together. If there is a replacement needed for Hurst, then Sir Alf Ramsey may have to look to Allan Clarke, still, I feel, the man for the Mexican cul-de-sac.

PROMISE

Emlyn Hughes confirmed the promise of the first game against Netherlands, but he favours his right foot too much to attack with much conviction down the left wing. It underlines how in seeking supreme versatility, Ramsey has found a score of players who do everything well but few things brilliantly.

In the one accepted specialist position, goalkeeper, at least England have a specialist. Peter Bonetti, coming in from the cold to make the sporadic save, looked as great a goalkeeper as Banks . . . and there can be no higher praise than that. He made three exceptional saves from free-kicks, an indictment of the defence, for free-kicks should never produce a goal at this level.

England became so obsessed with the ability of the Portuguese to swerve the ball round the "wall," that they left even greater gaps at the more vulnerable end and even in the "wall" itself. England will either have to increase the number of players lining up or to bring a man back to the goal line as a long stop to Bonetti.

In Brazil Tostao continues to make progress after his eye operation, but remains doubtful for Mexico. Brazil look good prospects, but recent film of some of their qualifying matches underlines just how poor the opposition was — particularly Colombia and Venezuela.

The Brazilians will need to be at their fittest for the finals, and Pele, in a recent interview, said flatly that all the players were tired out because of excessive club commitments. He criticised, particularly, the state tournaments and said that all the Santos players forced to take part in the Emilio Garrastazu Medici tournament at Salvador, north-eastern Brazil (representing Sao Paulo) would have been much better off with a rest.

"Santos," said Pele, "have played almost 90 games this year and top pros usually have only a 48-hour interval between games. This isn't enough, and unless something is done Brazil won't be the fittest team in Mexico—they'll be the tiredest."

Pele may be right, though I still feel one English league game is equivalent to three samba-style jog-trots in the Brazilian state league—and one West Ham v. Everton is like a month in the trenches. . .

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